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MEMOIR

OF

THE LATE

DAVID SCOTT, ESQ.

AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, ON THE NORTH-EAST FRONTIER OF BENGAL,

AND

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE AND CIRCUIT IN ASSAM,

&c. &c. &c.

by Archibald Paxton

Calcutta:

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1832.

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MEMOIR

OF

THE LIFE

OF

DAVID SCOTT, ESQ.

LATE MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES OF INDIA.

BY

HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. H. ALLEN AND CO., 13, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, S.W.

1890.

PREFACE.

In offering this little publication to the friends and connexions of the late Mr. Scott, it is proper to mention that I had not originally the most distant intention of attempting any thing like a Memoir of my lamented cousin and friend. My only object, in the first instance, had been to obtain all the information in my power relative to the latter years, or rather months, of his life; in the hope of thus softening the affliction of some near relations of Mr. Scott in England, to whom, I knew, the sad tidings of his death would occasion the keenest pangs of sorrow and distress. My reasons for altering this intention will presently appear.

With the above view, I addressed several Gentlemen on the North East Frontier, who had been

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in habits of constant intercourse with Mr. Scott, in the various departments, civil and military, of the extensive territory committed to his charge; and my satisfaction may be imagined, on finding my applications, in every instance, attended to with a promptitude and zeal, which strongly evinced the deep interest taken by every individual, in whatever regarded, or appeared likely to prove consolatory to the connexions of their departed friend.

A variety of interesting notices of Mr. Scott accordingly reached me from different quarters, most of which, not then entertaining the most distant idea of the present undertaking, I immediately transmitted to England, without retaining copies of them. They might otherwise have added considerably to its interest. In particular, I was under much obligation to Lieut. Colonel T. C. Watson, of the Honorable Company's European Regiment, W. Rhodes, Esq. Civil Surgeon at Churra Poonjee, and Lieut. E. F. Day, of the Artillery Regiment, who were then at the Sanatarium; and to Lieuts. Henry Ru-

therford and James Mathie, the Civil Assistants to Mr. Scott in Lower Assam. The three former gentlemen were present with Mr. Scott in his last moments, and had already transmitted the most interesting details of that melancholy period to Mr. Swinton, (Chief Secretary to Government,) who had always been much attached to Mr. Scott, and, in a particular manner, honored him with his friendship. These, Mr. Swinton obligingly sent to me for transmission to England; and the continued and active exertions of Lieuts. Mathie and Rutherford, were further, the means of happily arranging some private affairs of Mr. Scott's, that intensely interested him in the hour of approaching dissolution. It is with the most grateful feelings that I entreat all those gentlemen, in behalf of Mr. Scott's connexions in England, and in my own, to accept of the only return in my power to make them—my warmest acknowledgments for their individual kindness.

I had subsequently occasion to write to Major Adam White, commanding the Assam Light Infantry, and Political Agent to Government in

Upper Assam, the accomplished author of "*Considerations on the State of British India**," &c. This gentleman, from his distant situation, did not receive my communication until the beginning of October; and although then engaged in a variety of important and complicated affairs, having just assumed his official duties in that district, his reply, so early as the 16th of the same month, so far surpassed my remotest anticipation, that after full consideration, it appeared to me, I should not only be doing an injury to that highly gifted officer and to the memory of Mr. Scott, but to several other most meritorious, as well as lamented, individuals, if I declined giving a more extended circulation than my views had originally contemplated, to a Memoir so highly honorable to all whose names it has so ably recorded. Such have been my motives, and I trust, they will be justly appreciated.

Among the various documents that were sent to me will be found an excellent letter from

* Published in August, 1812.

Lieutenant Hamilton Vetch, of the Assam Light Infantry, giving an account of some interesting operations of Jungle warfare, in which he and Mr. Scott were personally engaged, with other correspondence of the same young officer ; and many letters from Mr. Scott to George Lamb, Esq. Civil Surgeon at Dacca, a particular friend of Mr. Scott's, with whom he was in habits of intimate and confidential intercourse. This gentleman favoured me with a large packet of Mr. Scott's letters to his address ; from which I have selected such only as appeared connected with, or were likely to add interest to, the Memoir. Unfortunately, the several dates of these only give the day and month, without noting the year in which they were written ; so that I have found it difficult, indeed impracticable, to arrange them in a manner altogether satisfactory. But the whole will, nevertheless, with the other papers above-mentioned, be found deeply interesting to Mr. Scott's friends ; some of whom will probably drop a tear to the regretted names of Bedingfield and Burlton, Leslie and Beadon, Wilcox and the amiable young Brodie, who fell

a too early sacrifice to the characteristic ardour of a youthful hero, devoted to all the romance and "circumstance" of a soldier's life: and, though motives of consolation will suggest themselves, even on occasions thus painful, yet, when we behold a youth so full of promise, who had already gained the love and admiration of all who knew him, thus unexpectedly

> "Cut off from Nature's, and from Glory's course
> "Which never mortal was more fond to run;"

such views, alas! however they may be approved by the understanding, can have little place in our hearts.

I had intended to give some account of the early life and education of Mr. Scott prior to his embarkation for India, and subsequent to his arrival, in the year 1801, up to the period when Major White's Memoir commences; and I had even completed details of some length on these subjects: but on considering, that, after all, there could be little or nothing new to Mr. Scott's friends and connexions in any thing I

had written; or, to speak more candidly, a distrust of my own ability to do justice to the life and character of my departed friend, finally induced me to withhold this part of the intended publication. Some detached parts of it, however, I have thrown into the form of notes, and appended to Major White's Memoir.

I shall only observe, therefore, that Mr. SCOTT was the second son of ARCHIBALD SCOTT, Esq. of USAN and DUNNINALD (the family seats), near MONTROSE, and born August, 1786.

The first appointments he held, I believe, after his arrival in India, were those of Assistant to the Collector, and, soon after, Register to the Judge and Magistrate, of Goruckpore. At this place I visited him in 1808, as more particularly mentioned in the notes just alluded to.

In 1812-13, he was appointed Officiating Judge and Magistrate of Purneah, Behar; and, at the close of the same year, Judge and Magistrate of Rungpore, in the same province. There was,

however, a degree of monotony in this situation that did not please him ; and in September, 1816, he effected an exchange of appointments with Mr. Norman Macleod, Commissioner of Cooch Behar, and Joint Magistrate of Rungpore ; and, finally, in 1823, he was nominated Civil Commissioner of Revenue and Circuit in the Rungpore, and several other districts, and Agent to the Governor General on the North East Frontier of Bengal. These important appointments, for the last of which Mr. Scott was specially selected by Government, on account of his high, general character, his pre-eminent and varied talents, and his urbane and conciliatory conduct to the Natives, he held till his death, in 1831.

The distinguished place Mr. Scott occupied in the opinion of several successive Governments would be understood from the private documenst alone in my possession, if I felt myself at liberty to publish them: and, yet more, had it been in my power to obtain the gratifying public testimonials by which he had, from time to time, been honored by the local authorities and

the Honorable Court of Directors. But whoever has read the voluminous papers printed by order of the House of Commons relative to the Burmese war; with those that were laid before both Houses of Parliament, by command of His late Majesty, on the same subject, will be able in some degree to appreciate the estimation in which Mr. Scott was held by the Supreme Government of India, during that eventful period. From these papers I have selected a letter or two of Mr. Scott's, with the paragraph of a despatch from the Governor General in Council to the Court of Directors, on the topics to which they refer, of a nature highly honorable to his character and talents. These will be found immediately following Major White's Memoir.

Of the sentiments of the present Government, relative to the public character and services of Mr. Scott, a nobler testimony could not, perhaps, have been given than in the monument erected at the public expence, to his memory, at Churra Poonjee; an honour, of which, I believe, there

is no other precedent than in the tomb of Mr. Cleveland at Bhaugulpore*.

A drawing of this handsome structure has been most obligingly sent to me by my friend Colonel Tickell, C. B. of the Engineers, from an original design of his own, which had been approved of by Government. The tomb is erected on a favorite hill in the neighbourhood, more particularly alluded to in the correspondence.

There the remains of David Scott now sleep, amid those of the friends whom, in life, he so sincerely loved and lamented.

ARCHIBALD WATSON, *Col. Light Cavalry.*

Letter from Major Adam White, (Commanding the Assam Light Infantry, and Political Agent to Government in Upper Assam,) to Colonel Arch. Watson.

Jorehat, 16th October, 1831.

My Dear Sir,

You will be surprised at not hearing from me sooner, in reply to your letter of the 9th September; but, when you hear that the Dawk takes 20 days to reach

* See the Note to No. 40 of the Appendix.

this place, and that I only arrived here on the 1st October, to take charge of my new appointment, which of course gave me a good deal to do, I hope you will acquit me of any inattention to poor Mr. Scott's memory. I have drawn out an account of him, and if you have any intention of publishing a Memoir of Mr. Scott, you can expunge, alter, correct or incorporate any part of mine, as you think best. In the first part of it, I have, perhaps, indulged too much in comment upon Mr. Scott's measures, which can easily be omitted, if you judge proper. I am sorry that my account of him is so imperfect, but it is owing to my having been much less with Mr. Scott than you suppose. I saw him last in June, but I had not seen him for 13 months prior to that period. He then appeared very ill, and, I am certain, entertained no doubt in his own mind that his end was approaching; and indeed I have a letter before me, dated 2nd June, to Lieut. Vetch, in which he tells him plainly that he must not be surprised to hear of his death. I apprehended the worst myself, but endeavoured to cheer his mind as much as I could. I offered to accompany him to the hills, but he would not allow me, and in truth, he knew the public service would not admit of it.

If Mr. Scott has kept any notes of his life, I am sure a most interesting volume might be written respecting him; but I saw nothing among his papers at Gowhattie.

Your's very truly,
A. WHITE.

× Appendix, No. 30.

(Extract) from Major Adam White to Colonel Archibald Watson, dated 20th October, 1831.

Of Mr. Scott's early life and conduct, as Governor General's Agent, during the Burmese war, I cannot pretend to give an account, as at that period I was not an assistant on the North East Frontier. I regret that it has not been in my power to give more minute details in regard to him. The cause of this is owing to my having been generally separate from him in charge of a district. It was only during his visits as a Circuit Judge that I enjoyed much of his society. If the information I have communicated is likely to interest his private friends and relations, it will be a source of great gratification to me, independent of the satisfaction I feel in paying a sincere tribute to the merits and virtues of our lamented friend, to whom, personally, I am under great obligations. Should you determine upon writing a Memoir of Mr. Scott, you can alter, or correct, what I have sent, at your pleasure. I am strongly persuaded that Mr. Scott must have taken notes of his own life, although I never have heard him say that he did, nor have I seen any book of the kind; but I know several of his friends are of opinion he did*.

A. WHITE.

* Unhappily no such documents were found amongst Mr. Scott's papers; otherwise, if we may judge from the few materials we have been able to collect, it may be imagined what an instructive, valuable, and interesting volume might have been written.—Ed.

A MEMOIR

OF

THE LATE DAVID SCOTT, ESQ.

BY

MAJOR WHITE.

At the period when I first saw him (in 1826), Mr. Scott was actively employed in settling the provinces of Upper and Lower Assam, which had passed into our possession by the right of conquest, during the Burmah War. This settlement involved a tract of country about 400 miles in length, reaching from Gowalparah to Suddyah, and containing a population of 8 or 900,000 souls. The arduous nature of this task may easily be inferred, when it is taken into consideration that Assam, having been conquered, in the 11th century, by a war-like race of mountaineers from the regions between the confines of the Burmese empire and China, an entire new system of government had been introduced, varying much from the Hindoo institutions which, in that age, prevailed in Assam, and standing at a much wider distance from the combined system of Native and British law now administered in the Provinces.

To exercise power beneficially it was, therefore, required that a master mind should appear, which, throwing aside all the technicalities of the Regulations, should grasp, at once, the spirit of this new system, that it might mould it to its purposes, and engraft upon it those improvements which a more enlightened system of rule demanded; at the same time, combining this with a proper attention to the peculiar customs and prejudices of the Assamese.

To enable the reader to form a proper judgment of Mr. Scott's labours, I shall endeavour to sketch the system of Government introduced by him into Lower Assam, with which I am more familiarly acquainted.

As the basis of all good Government, to establish a free communication between the governors and the governed, Mr. Scott admitted, as much as was possible, of the most complete access to his person: his kutchery was at all times crowded; indeed, to a degree, which would have rendered it impossible for persons of an ordinary strength of constitution to have transacted business at all. The most unlimited freedom of petitioning was allowed, without expence to the complainants. A large box was placed in the kutchery, into which the petitions

could be thrown. To ensure despatch of business, they were limited to 25 or 30 lines; but no stamp tax, or other restriction, existed.—All proceedings in court, and all petitions, were written in the Bengalee or Assamese languages.

Unquestionably this facility of petitioning was, at times, much abused—a man would complain about a dispute which his dead father had had, about a horse, or a cow, some 40 years ago. Accusations of the most serious nature, against individuals, were given in, altogether unfounded; and disappointed suitors often gave vent to their malice, in most offensive anonymous remarks, upon the amlah and European authorities: but good was mingled with the evil—various murders, and other offences, were brought to light; the rogueries of the amlah were often exposed; a free vent was afforded to the spirit of grumbling, inherent in our nature; and, above all, the most complete check was imposed upon his European subordinates; as the slightest complaint against them was listened to, and referred to these functionaries for an answer.—The Assamese had the most unbounded confidence in Mr. Scott, and exercised this freedom without reservation;—but, perhaps, it would have been better if it had been

some what narrowed, as it was scarcely possible that the most talented European could attend to the numerous complaints brought forward against his subordinate officers.—A small tax of 2 annas upon each petition would have checked the tendency to making frivolous complaints, without excluding the poor man from the temple of justice. The tax imposed in the provinces of 8 annas on each petition, would have been found too heavy in Assam, and its imposition would have debarred many a poor man from approaching the courts.

In the judicial system, very important reforms were introduced: the barbarous punishments of the ancient government, the cutting of noses, ears, extracting eyes, and other horrible mutilations, were at once put down. The police, with some exceptions, was thrown into the hands of the native Collectors of Revenue: men elected by the ryuts; and, thereby, unlikely to render themselves unpopular by abusing its functions.

With a view to the ultimate suppression of bribery, an object so difficult of attainment in India, the police functionaries were, in particular cases, encouraged to take bribes, provided they reported their doing so to the magistrate.

If the party offering the bribe, or receiving a bribe, without reporting, was convicted, the informer received the whole, or part, according to circumstances. If this did not, in every instance, effectually extirpate the practice, particularly in cases where the sum proffered was of large amount, it unquestionably tended to render all parties exceedingly cautious either in giving or receiving bribes.

To check corruption in the superior amlah about him, Mr. Scott exercised a rigorous system of espionnage. In the Judicial and Revenue departments, he had several unknown individuals entirely devoted to him, who reported the peccadilloes of their brethren. These men had literally sold themselves to him; guilty of delinquencies themselves, Mr. Scott, watching his opportunity, had pounced upon them when the proof was complete, and in this predicament, they were glad to compound for the penalty by the promise of giving information; to ensure its performance, the original accusation was held over them in terrorem. Undoubtedly these informers played false at times, where large sums were at stake; but it was necessary to do something, and, occasionally, valuable information was given, which operated as a general check.

In trying cases of murder, Mr. Scott, or his assistant, was aided by a jury, or, rather, a body of assessors, who gave in a verdict of guilt, or innocence, but had nothing to say to the sentence. These assessors were, generally speaking, (Assamese) public officers of the Civil Courts ; but respectable Natives, unconnected with the Government, were encouraged to apply for permission to sit on these trials as members of the punchyut court ; and it was only their apathy, ignorance of the functions of jurymen, and disinclination to give up their time for that purpose, which compelled Mr. Scott to rely, principally, upon the services of paid assessors. In determining the value of native testimony, their opinion was certainly of utility ; but, in cases where the higher ranks of Natives, or men of caste, were involved, it was difficult to get an impartial verdict from them.

Mr. Scott entertained a high opinion of the intellectual capacity of the Natives. About a year before his death, he recommended, that a Native should be appointed as assistant to the European officer in civil charge of Lower Assam, with the full powers of a European moofussil magistrate, in criminal cases, viz. of passing a sentence of two years imprisonment. Since his

demise, this appointment has taken place. Upon the same principle he entrusted the decision of civil suits to them almost entirely. Three Civil Courts were formed at Goahattie, composed entirely of natives, and it was only in cases of large amount that a special appeal existed to himself. Fully aware of the evil of concentrating all authority in the European functionary in charge of a district, he erected subordinate punchyut courts, in each populous pergunnah, to whom all petty civil suits were referred, with a right of appeal to the higher courts at Goahattie, whilst the minor breaches of peace were referred to the choudhries, or native collectors of districts. In this way, Mr. Scott was enabled to dispose of the vast number of references that were daily made to him; but, personally, his labours, as a Circuit Judge and Revenue Commissioner, were extremely heavy.

In the Revenue Department very important changes were effected. Under the ancient Government, the revenue was principally raised by a capitation and hearth tax; and by the ryuts giving a certain portion of their labour for the benefit of the state. Thus four individuals received a certain portion of land, on condition, that the labour of one of the four should be ap-

propriated, throughout the year, to the service of the state; in this, approximating to the French system of Corvees prior to the Revolution. At the same time, the amount of taxation was altogether indefinite: independent of the Government demand, various public functionaries were entitled to a share of the produce of the soil, and their rapacious demands were only limited by the utter inability of the ryuts to pay. Mr. Scott rectified this, by fixing the demand of the state, with some exceptions, upon the land, which was ascertained by measurements. One uniform rate of taxation was fixed for arable land, and all irregular exactions were abolished—but circumstances, and the want of leisure, prevented his maturing the settlement of the extensive districts of Durung and Nyagong. Throughout the 26 pergunnahs in Lower Assam, the ryuts were allowed to elect their own choudhries, or native collectors, by whom the revenue was collected and paid in to Government. When the day of election occurred, they gave in tickets, specifying the name of the candidate for whom they voted, and the majority of votes determined the election.

In an abstract point of view nothing appears simpler and better calculated to produce good government than this arrangement. Yet, in

practice, it did not operate so well as might be expected; and is, apparently, an institution too far advanced for the existing state of civilization in Assam. The ryuts*, to secure a temporary relief to themselves, often elected good easy souls, who never troubled them for their rent, and thereby the district fell into arrears. At times they were misled by factious demagogues, who induced them to elect very improper persons; and, occasionally, some powerful man in a district, emulating the example of his compeers in the Emerald Isle, pinned up some 2 or 300 of the Free-holders, until they agreed to vote for him, and then marched them up in triumph to the place of election.

Mr. Scott was animated by the noblest motives in proposing this arrangement; conceiving, that to give the people a share in their own government was the most direct mode of elevating them in their own estimation; and, independent of this, he was sanguine in supposing that thereby all improper influence on the part of the amlah, in recommending individuals for appointment, would be effectually checked. Owing to the low state of civilization, and the impossibility of affording European superintendence in every

* The villagers or peasantry.—Ed.

election, these good effects have not resulted as yet—but, with reference to the future, an institution of the kind may confer important benefits on the community.

Mr. Scott took an intense interest in every measure connected with the general welfare of the country and population*, and exerted him-

* Mr. Scott was one of those who became attached to the Natives of this country rather than disgusted by a prolonged intercourse with them.—It was an occasional subject of complaint with him, in conversation, during the visit I paid him in 1808, before alluded to, that Europeans, in general, should evince so little regard for the feelings of Natives of rank or respectability with whom they had occasion to associate, either on business or in the ordinary intercourses of life; which accounted for that disinclination so evident on their part to all connection with them beyond what necessity dictated. Of late years, however, I have observed, that this dislike has been gradually lessening, and that the higher classes of Natives have begun to shew a very general disposition to court and conciliate the acquaintance of their European brethren.

With regard to the lower ranks of the people, Mr. Scott would seldom admit the moral superiority of Europeans on any point; and sometimes instanced the honesty of our native servants, in all matters intrusted to their charge, which had become in a manner proverbial. At the present day, perhaps, so much cannot be said in their favor. But, in speaking of the alleged depravity of the Natives in the towns and cities of the interior, I am afraid, if we look into the "Police reports and crimes of the metropolis" of England, and consult Colquhoun and others on the same subject, we

self strenuously in forwarding such improvements as circumstances admitted of his introducing. Being of opinion, that Assam offered

shall see little cause for self-congratulation. It cannot indeed be disputed that bribery and corruption, in their worst and most oppressive forms, reign universally among the native functionaries under our dominion; but much of this may be attributed to the inefficiency of our own regulations and police over a comparatively immense territority, where it is quite impossible the European magistrates, and other public officers of Government, can survey, with their own eyes, as in England, all parts of the system under their control. It is indeed to be feared, that a century or more must elapse, and the sons of Shem and Japheth become mingled together and assimilated as one individual people, by means of gradual colonization, before we can hope for any material changes in this respect. By that time education and English literature will have extended the march of general knowledge over India; and the Natives, thoroughly instructed in their own rights, will as sturdily oppose the frauds and oppressions of their countrymen in office, as would be done, at the present day, in England.

Mr. Scott's paternal treatment of his native servants, I remember, was such, that they were devotedly attached to him, and strove rather, to prevent or anticipate his wishes, than coldly, or unwillingly, to execute them; and I am convinced, that, to a man, they would, at any time, have hazarded their lives in his service, had occasion called for such a proof of their attachment.

Indeed I have every reason to believe, that the innate benevolence of his character, which evinced itself in numberless acts of retired and unostentatious, but enlarged, philanthropy, was the means of considerably injuring his fortune.—Ed.

every facility for the production of silk, he introduced the mulberry plant, with a view to its further increase ; and brought workmen from Rungpore, who taught the Natives an improved mode of preparing and spinning the Moongah silk, a staple commodity of the country.—He laboured to improve the breed of cattle, and distributed the potatoe and other useful vegetables amongst the Natives. The prisoners in jail were taught various useful occupations—an agricultural farm was established ; and, to provide for the intellectual wants of the rising generation,a provision was obtained from Government for establishing 12 or 15 schools in Lower Assam.

Mr. Scott exerted himself to promote the labours of the Missionaries in the districts subject to his control; and, on his application to Government, a Baptist Missionary, Mr. Rae, was allowed to preceed to Assam. Mr. Scott was in the habit of distributing the New Testament in the Assamese language amongst the Natives ; and always maintained the opinion, that people in a rude state of civilization, like the Garrow and Cassyah mountaineers, whose ideas of a future state, and the Supreme Being, were vague and indistinct, were much more likely to be converted than races further advanced, like

the Hindoos and Mohamedans of the provinces; in whose hearts more elevated notions of religion were enshrined from childhood, by the endearing cares of their parents, sanctified by the pompous ritual and observances of their respective faiths, and, in mature manhood, rivetted in the understanding by the intellectual labours of their hierarchies, the members of which were interested in supplying them with reasons for the faith that was in them.—But he was of opinion, that the labours of the Missionaries should be combined with instruction in agriculture, and the mechanical arts, with the view of raising these rude people in the scale of society; and that, thereby, a lively feeling of gratitude might be generated in their bosoms, which would dispose them the more readily to listen to the doctrine of their spiritual adviser.

Being anxious (for revenue purposes) to ascertain, as speedily as possible, the exact resources of the country, Mr. Scott proposed to Government, and obtained a survey upon, I believe, quite a new principle in Bengal. The work was almost entirely performed by native surveyors, Bengalees or Assamese. The European surveyor, or his assistant marked out the given tract, and surveyed the boundary. The interior portion of

+ Appendix, No. 44, &c.

the area was entirely filled up by the native surveyors, and protracted by the European surveyor, or his assistant. So many native surveyors being employed upon very small salaries, if their work was performed in an efficient manner, it is clear, that a survey would be accomplished at much less expence, and with more despatch, than under the present mode. But the nature of the country and its unhealthiness opposed serious obstacles; most of the surveyors were Bengalees, who suffered severely from sickness; and, thereby, the work has been somewhat retarded. The work was very ably superintended by the late Lieut. Bedingfeld, of the Artillery; and the conduct of it under Mr. Mathews, the present surveyor, afforded Mr. Scott every satisfaction. Mr. Scott himself had considerable experience as a practical surveyor, and was capable of throwing out very useful suggestions for the management of the survey.

Mr. Scott took much interest in the progress of geographical discovery on the N. E. Frontier; and, on his application to Government, I believe, those arduous expeditions were undertaken, in which Lieuts. Wilcox and Burlton were employed. It was matter of much regret to him, that circumstances deprived him of the services of these

valuable Officers in this honourable but dangerous career. From political causes, the Government of Upper Assam was much more assimilated to that of a native state than Lower Assam. In its administration, the very kind and conciliating disposition of Colonel Cooper, the Commissioner, tended much to reconcile the minds of the Assamese nobles to the desagremens of a foreign dominion; and subsequently, Mr. Scott derived the most valuable assistance from the able and energetic conduct of the late Political Agent, Captain Neufville.

Of Mr. Scott's official career as Commissioner of N. E. Rungpore, I can scarcely pretend to speak, as my acquaintance with him originated at a later period; but I have occasionally heard him throw out remarks upon the manner in which he proceeded with the Garrows. He had been selected for this appointment by the Government, in the confident expectation, that the uniform kindness of his manner, and his high sense of justice towards the Natives, might produce a beneficial result, in treating with them; and, in the hope, that, by his persuasion, they might be induced to abstain from those cruel excesses they had been wont to perpetrate in the Company's territory. The Government were not

disappointed in this nomination; and Mr. Scott received the thanks of the Court of Directors for his conduct in Garrow affairs.

But kindness and conciliation were not the only weapons he employed; Mr. Scott told me plainly, that, when any outrage was committed, it was utterly impossible to obtain any satisfaction for it, until the injury had been revenged by an appeal to arms—in a word, a Garrow never would listen to reason, until he had been beaten: then he kissed the rod, and acknowledged the person who wielded it as his superior. For the last seven or eight years the Garrows have uniformly talked of Mr. Scott as their father; but this endearing appellation was obtained by a rough course of paternal discipline. Confident in the vast military superiority which fire-arms and discipline confer upon us, he never hesitated proceeding into their country, with small parties of 20 or 30 men, to demand satisfaction for an injury, and was, almost, in every instance successful: on one occasion only, he was endangered. With a small guard of 10 or 12 men he found himself in a position where the points of egress were guarded by 7 or 800 Garrows; thus beset, he was compelled to stockade himself, and remained beleaguered for seven or

eight days, until relieved by a company of Sebundies.

Mr. Scott's knowledge of jungle warfare was unquestionably of service to him afterwards, in recommending what course of operations should be pursued against the Burmese and Cassyas; but his opinion, as to the amount of force required to bring an expedition to a successful issue, in many instances, differed materially from that of military officers who had had no experience of such warfare; indeed, in these circumstances, it was natural enough to estimate the prowess of the enemy at a higher rate than experience warranted. During this period of his life, the Goalparah Sebundy Corps was formed under Mr. Scott's personal superintendence. It was composed almost entirely of Garrows, and the men were expected to move unincumbered with baggage or carriage of any description. To facilitate this, their head-dress was convertible into a cooking pot. The shape did not differ much from that of the ordinary sepoy's turbans. After the march, the blue broad cloth, and the ornaments, were taken off, and lo! a goodly brass vessel made its appearance, superseding the necessity of the soldier carrying one in his knapsack.

Of Mr. Scott's mode of intercourse with the various rude tribes around him, I shall not say much, as it would lead me into too many details; but as our connection with the Cassya states, on the Assam side, must excite some interest, I shall endeavour to state its commencement, having witnessed it personally.

Teeruth Singh, the Cassya Rajah of Nunkhlow, wished to rent some lands in the plains of Assam, which his ancestors had been accustomed to do from the Assamese Rajah. Mr. Scott replied that he would be happy to oblige him in that respect, provided he exerted himself to induce his people to grant a free passage through his territory to British subjects, proceeding to Sylhet, or, vice versâ, from Sylhet to Assam. As the Cassyas claimed a free right to enter our territory, Mr. Scott deemed it but equitable that they should extend a similar indulgence to our subjects. Teeruth Singh replied that he would convene an assembly of his people, when Mr. Scott's proposition would be submitted to them; at the same time, he invited Mr. Scott to be present at the meeting.

On the 1st of November, 1826, we started for the hills. There being no regular road at that

period, we experienced considerable difficulty in making our way across the woody hills, which lie between Goahattee and Nunkhlow, a distance of 60 miles. I was much amused at Mr. Scott's expedients to diminish these difficulties. Being a stout man, weighing 13 or 15 stone, it was difficult for him to climb these almost perpendicular heights. To remedy this, he had prepared, before hand, a pair of traces which went round his body; to these were attached two or more brawny mountaineers, who marched on before, and, pulling with all their strength, Mr. Scott was thus enabled to ascend with, comparatively, little exertion. At other times, he made a powerful Toorkie horse, remarkably quiet, go on before him, and, rolling the hair of the tail round his hands, it tugged up the hill. Emerging from the hot muggy atmosphere of the plains, and the noisome effluvia of these Assamese wilds, it is scarcely possible to conceive with what delight we beheld the enchanting verdure of these hills, and breathed their pure and balmy atmosphere. I forget who it is that sings:

"Oh, there is sweetness in the mountain air,
And life, which bloated ease can never hope to share."

But no one can experience the truth of this sentiment more forcibly than the traveller from

the plains of India. Fortune had favoured us on this occasion; the atmosphere was unusually clear, and we had scarcely proceeded 100 yards, when, looking across the vale, the snowy ranges of the Himmalayah burst upon us in all their beauty; whilst the plains of Assam lay at our feet, enveloped in a dense haze, penetrated, here and there, by bright gleams of sunshine, which revealed to us the silvery Berhampooter winding gently to its reservoir. How different its appearance, at these heights, from its mass of waters, their roar, and rush, in the plains.

We arrived in the evening at Nunkhlow, which we found an inconsiderable village, perched on the top of a hill. The aspect of the country reminded me, much, of the beautiful sheep hills in the south of Scotland. The day after, the Rajah summoned the whole of his people, and those of the adjacent states; and, four or five days afterwards, the Meeting of the Parliament took place. Utterly ignorant of the habits and manners of these people, conceive my astonishment when 5 or 600 warriors came bounding along the hills, armed with two-handed swords, bows, and quivers, and arrayed in the picturesque garb of the Cassyas, resembling the Roman Toga. Their sudden appearance on the top of

these beautiful hills, gave wonderful effect to the scenery around. A circle having been formed, and the various members of the assembly arranged according to their rank, the Rajah proceeded to explain the object of the meeting, and requested the different orators to express their sentiments on the proposition of the British Government. The leading orator, on the part of the opposition, immediately started forth, and commenced a long harangue in condemnation of the measure, expressed in a continuous flow of language, accompanied with much animation of manner, and appropriate gesticulation. This was replied to by an orator of the Rajah's party; and, in this manner, the ball was kept up until evening. I was struck with astonishment at the order and decorum which characterised these debates. No shouts of exultation, or indecent attempts to put down the orator of the opposite party; on the contrary, every speaker was fairly heard out. I have often witnessed the debates in St. Stephen's Chapel, but those of the Cassya Parliament appeared to me to be conducted with more dignity of manner. The whole scene brought vividly to my recollection, the eloquent description of the North American Indians by Robertson, Chateaubriand, and Cooper; and, for once, I found my boyish dreams realized.

At this time, as far as I could understand, the Government appeared to be lodged in a widely extended Aristocracy; but, since then, subsequent inquiries have shewn that it was of a much more Republican cast; the Rajah, and the leading men, possessing very little control over the people. As it grew dark, the debate not being closed, Mr. Scott grew rather impatient; and, as he had been wont to do with the Garrows, ordered a dozen bottles of rum to be sent up the hill in the hope of putting an end to it. The liquor was returned, with a message, saying, that, they would not drink spirits until they had come to a determination upon the point at issue. The next morning the debate was resumed; it was continued throughout the day, and closed at midnight, in favour of the proposition of the British Government. What the literal arguments of the opposition orators were, I cannot exactly say; but, looking down upon the vale of Assam at their feet, and, seeing that the British Ensign had advanced to the sacred fountains of Bramah Kound, it was natural for them to cherish distrust of such a powerful neighbour: but I rather think the instinctive dislike of mountaineers to the inhabitants of the plains, so general throughout the world, had more influence on the deliberations. The

next day the resolution of the assembly was embodied in a treaty, which was concluded with the British Government; the Cassyas agreeing to aid in the construction of a road, which was to pass through their territory.

Delighted with the climate, Mr. Scott immediately commenced another negotiation for permission to rent a piece of land upon which a house was to be built, to "eat the Europe air" as it was phrased. This, after considerable opposition, was granted. After the negotiations were finished, a grand banquet was given by Mr. Scott, to the principal leaders of the Cassyas; a huge caldron, which Mr. Scott had brought with him (resembling that described by Sancho with so much gusto at Comacho's wedding) was filled with pig, fowl, flesh, and fish. When the feast was ready, to banish distrust, we commenced by tasting the principal dishes—confidence was immediately established, and copious libations were drunk in honour of this new alliance. Before the assembly dispersed, contests of archery* took place between the men of the differ-

* Mr. Scott took considerable interest in these sports, being skilled in archery himself. On a subsequent visit, I perfectly recollect the late Dr. Beadon laid a considerable wager with Mr. Scott, that a Cassya Interpreter, who shot very well, would

ent villages, and the victors were carried home in triumph, surrounded by the villagers, singing and dancing, as they wound their way over the adjacent hills.

On this my first visit to Nunkhlow, the impression on my mind was decidedly in favour of the Cassyas, who appeared to me a simple, honest, brave, and independent people. During his short stay, at this time, Mr. Scott's mind was ardently employed in schemes for the improvement of the Cassyas' country. Fruit trees, of various descriptions, were written for from Calcutta; cattle to improve the breed; roads were planned; bridges were ordered to be constructed; and his zeal, in the behalf of this race, unfortunately laid the foundation of that complaint, which brought him to a premature grave. He had gone to select a proper place for throw-

beat him. For amusement, the bet was taken up by Mr. Scott, although conscious that his antagonist would beat him. I was appointed Umpire, and exhorted the Cassya, that the superior rank of his opponent should not induce him to play booty. But all my rhetoric was unavailing—Mr. Scott, by a glance of his eye, gave him his cue, unobserved by the Doctor; the fellow managed most adroitly to save his credit, just allowing the Agent of the Governor General to beat him, to the great annoyance of his backer; but the latter was agreeably undeceived, about a week afterwards, when the secret was let out.

ing across a bridge; and, towards evening, found that he had to ascend a mountain 2,000 feet high, before getting home; his usual assistants were wanting, and over-exertion brought on a palpitation of the heart, and difficulty of breathing, which led him to augur the worst of his complaint from the first.

About 18 months afterwards, I again visited Nunkhlow, which exhibited much improvement; a road had been constructed from Assam; bridges had been built; various European fruit trees had been planted; and a breeding establishment set agoing. But no doubt some of these improvements must have been irksome to the Cassyas; every thing promised a permanent stay; a bungalow had been constructed; prisoners were employed on the road, and a guard brought up to take care of them, which perhaps the Cassyas did not relish—but, outwardly, the spirit of discord slumbered in their bosoms. Mr. Scott was remarkable, at this period, for his respectful attention towards the Cassyas; they were treated on a footing of equality; indeed, took greater liberties than are allowed in that state; penetrated at all times, without ceremony, into your most private apartment, and exacted exorbitant prices for every thing,

which were readily paid. No restriction of their liberties had taken place, nor had any pecuniary burthen been imposed upon them; and an impartial spectator would have inferred, that the Cassyas were sensible how much they had benefitted from their connection with the British Government, in improved roads, an increased demand for their produce, the introduction of useful vegetables, vaccination, schools, &c.*

But innovations introduced by strangers, are often distasteful, especially to a race of mountaineers; and, notwithstanding all these visible benefits, the spirit of hatred, at this time, must have rankled in their bosoms. Shortly afterwards, these smothered passions found vent, in the atrocious massacre of two unoffending British Officers, Lieutenants Bedingfeld and Burlton, with 50 or 60 of our followers, at Nunkhlow. Mr. Scott, at this time, was on his way from Nunkhlow to Chirra Poonjee, and, by a deep refinement in treachery, before starting, had been falsely warned by the Nunkhlow people, that he would be

* So ardent was his desire to benefit the Natives, that he carried up with him 2 Bhooteyas for the purpose of teaching the Cassyas the mode of agriculture practised by the Bhooteyas and Chinese, in cultivating their mountains; but their dislike of innovation, as usual, defeated the scheme.

attacked in passing through the Molacem country, with the view that he should be deterred from going, and might, thereby, be involved in the general massacre. Mr. Scott so far fell into the snare, that, deceived by this show of kindness, he only left one naik and four regular soldiers at Nunkhlow*, but, disdaining the warning given, he determined to push on with a guard of 12 regular soldiers. The Cassyas, seeing their victim likely to escape them, planned an ambush at Zumbree, where he was to be invited to pass the night: on arriving somewhat close to the village, a courteous invitation was sent; but, as the inhabitants had been rather inimical to the British alliance, this extraordinary politeness most fortunately roused Mr. Scott's suspicions, and induced him to decline it. Pushing on rapidly for Syung, whose inhabitants had not joined in the combination, he passed the night there, and thus most providentially saved his life.

The exciting cause of this melancholy catastrophe must, I am afraid, be traced to the false and foolish speech of a Bengalee chupprassee, who, in a dispute with the Cassyas, prior to Mr. Scott's coming up, had threatened them with his master's vengeance, and had plainly told them that it entered into his master's plans to

* See Mr. Scott's letter to Dr. Lamb, No. 2, Appendix.

subject them to taxation, the same as the inhabitants of the plains. With a proud confidence in their own valour, characteristic of their barbarian state of civilization, these mountainers imagined it would be an easy matter to precipitate our effeminate soldiery from these heights into the plains; and, at the shrill sound of their mountain-whistle, banded together to the number of 1,500 men:—but the rapid advance of Captain Lister soon dissolved the charm of their invincibility, and the triumph of discipline, and steady determined conduct, was soon apparent. The contest was prolonged for about two months, and various skirmishes took place, in most of which Mr. Scott was present, and took an intense personal interest. At one time, he was out on horse-back with a few followers, and, perceiving a body of Cassyas, manœuvred ably, and kept them in play, whilst he detached a messenger to Captain Lister; who, making a detour unseen, came unexpectedly upon the Cassya leaders, in grand debate whether they should push on in that quarter, or not. A volley of musquetry broke up the council, and the leaders retired in great confusion—the Rajah Teerut Sing being wounded and a number left dead*.

* On hearing of the outrage at Nunkhlow, operations commenced immediately on the Assam side. At that period, there

The resistance made by the Cassyas did not evince that heroic spirit which the martial

were not more than 50 or 60 men of the Assam Light Infantry at Gowahatty, and aid could not be procured nearer than Bishnath, about 120 miles distant.

The first report I received, merely mentioned, in a vague manner, that Lieut. Bedingfeld had been killed, but stated no particulars. On hearing it, I requested Lieut. Vetch, commanding at Gowahatty, to march with his Detachment that day, and accompanied it. We left Gowahatty on the 8th April, with 40 men, leaving only 14 or 15 men to protect the place, and the treasury, containing a lakh and a half of rupees. In ordinary circumstances, this might have been an imprudent measure; but as we rightly conjectured, that the blow was not aimed at a solitary individual, but menaced our national power in the hills, it was necessary to make an emergent effort to aid our party at Nunkhlow, or, at the least, to afford them succour, if retreating; and, personally, we felt a natural desire to avenge the fall of our friend: but circumstances conspired against us on this occasion, and defeated our design. On the 3rd March, we entered the Cassya country, and towards evening, surprised the outpost of Jeeran, where a party, under the command of a cousin of the Cassya Rajah, was posted to oppose us. Taken unexpectedly, this warrior rushed out sword in hand, with a few followers, upon the leading section; but seeing himself unsupported, made rapidly for the jungle amidst a shower of balls. The village being situated on a rocky eminence, surrounded by jungle, in which the enemy had taken refuge; to secure our position, it became necessary to set fire to the houses skirting the jungle—but, being filled with grain, it extended to the whole village, and soon presented a scene strangely

appearance of their warriors had led us to expect, and which, they said, was displayed in

contrasted—looking upwards, a lofty pillar of fire rose up from the devoted village, and, beyond it, a dense column of smoke towered up to the highest heaven, presenting an object of great sublimity. Beneath, a strange Bacchanalian scene of licence rose upon the view—some of the soldiers and camp-followers were shooting pigs and fowls—others were roasting them before the fire—some were searching for plunder, and running about in the gay dresses of the Cassyas—a few were eagerly searching for their arms to carry off as trophies, whilst other joyous souls made free with their spirituous liquors—they all made admirable cheer for the evening, and the free spirit of a camp reigned throughout. The next morning I was compelled to return to Gowahatty, having received two expresses, stating that a party of the Cassyas had approached within seven or eight miles of that place; that the Assamese were supposed to be in league with them; and that most of the Bengalee merchants and amlahs had taken to their boats. On arriving at Gowahatty, I found affairs much exaggerated—but the country being in a state of great agitation, it was necessary to detain Lieut. Vetch's detachment until reinforcements arrived. About a week afterwards Captain Urquhart arrived, with two companies of the 54th N. I., about 80 strong. At this period, from the reports that came in, there was reason to believe, that Mr. Scott had perished, along with most of the people connected with the agency; and thus, there being no pressing call to afford support to our party in the hills, it became expedient to wait until intelligence was received from Sylhet, as to the measures in contemplation for the chastisement of the Cassyas, that, in co-operation, a simultaneous movement might be made

the encounters of their tribes with each other. In these contests we were told, that the hostile

from the Assam side. About a week afterwards the joyful intelligence of Mr. Scott's escape was received, and that the Sylhet force was in motion. Captain Urquhart's detachment immediately advanced, and, pushing on by the Bundrew route, reached Nunkhlow, where we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Scott and some of the officers of the Sylhet party. At this period, owing to the severe chastisement they had received from Captain Lister's detachment, the spirit of the Cassyas was much broken, and in the only affair in which I was out against them they conducted themselves in a very dastardly way.

There was great difficulty in providing supplies for the troops at this time; and, there being no immediate call for their services, Capt. Urquhart's detachment was directed to return to Assam, making a detour by Ramree: at the same time, I was ordered, with a small party, to open a communication with Gowahatty, by the direct route viâ Jeeran, which had been stockaded and blocked up by the Cassyas. We encountered little resistance from the enemy, who invariably retreated on being fired upon; but the natural and artificial obstacles opposed to our progress were such, that had the Cassyas evinced a proper spirit, the detachment must inevitably have been lost. The country between Nunkhlow and Assam is extremely difficult of access, being a succession of steep acclivities and declivities, covered with the densest jungle, and affording positions capable of being defended by a few determined men against an army. On the present occasion, the roads were planted with sharp bamboo stakes, called Panjhies, and the most difficult passes were obstructed with trees, and stockaded—most fortunately

bands, like Ossian's heroes, rushed from their opposite hills against each other "like the dark "storms of autumn, and dire was the result when "their conflicting shields dashed against each "other in the vale below." Here no such display of manhood took place, but the advantage we possessed in the use of fire-arms will easily account for this—their natural courage sunk under this superiority, and they candidly confessed, that they could not fight, whilst such an unusual noise stunned their ears.

In the arrangements he made for the maintenance of our positions, Mr. Scott displayed great practical sagacity. At this time, much sickness prevailed among the troops, arising from the miasma of the noxious jungles they had passed through in coming up from Assam, and the difficulty of procuring supplies in the

Mr. Scott had carried up a body of prisoners from the jail to act as pioneers, and, by their aid, he was enabled to extricate the detachment from the dilemma in which it was placed. The detachment under Capt. Urquhart and Lieut. Dawes effected its detour without any loss from the enemy, but the sickness which prevailed in his detachment on its return, affords a striking exemplification of the noxious climate of these jungles in the hot season. Of 80 sepoys there were not more than two or three who did not go into hospital, and the two European Officers suffered most severely from sickness.

hills. Indeed, to such an extent, that it was scarcely supposed we could maintain our posts on the Assam side. But a man of talent is never without resources—Mr. Scott fortunately recollected, that there were some hundred Burmese, or rather Shyans (the original invaders of Assam), who had been taken prisoners during the war, but were afraid to return to their own country, lest their heads should be cut off:—men of a hardy frame of body, accustomed to bear privation, who required no carriage, cattle, or coolies, for carrying provisions, and to whom the air of the jungles was native. Aware of all this, he lost no time in calling such useful qualities into play; and, having enrolled about 100 of them as soldiers, to this circumstance is to be ascribed our having been able to keep up our communication, in such an unhealthy tract of country as the jungles which intervene between Assam and the Cassya hills.

The same readiness of resource was evinced in the cold weather of 1830-31. At this time, the Cassyas had made very successful incursions into the Company's territory, in the plains of Assam, and, with the exceptions of a jemadar and 16 men, every Sebundy soldier had been despatched to the frontier: on a sudden the inha-

bitants of Gowalparah, one day, rushed into court, with a report, that the Cassyas and Garrows were within two or three miles distance. Most opportunely it occurred to Mr. Scott, that a considerable party of the Rajah of Bijnie's disbanded soldiers had come from the other side of the river to complain that they had not received their arrears—he immediately sent for them, put musquets in their hands, and thus confidence was restored to the minds of the affrighted towns-people.

Whilst living in the hills, it was necessary that Mr. Scott should be watchful of his personal safety; as these mountaineers, like the North American savages, cherish the feeling, that the death of those who have fallen in battle can only be atoned for by taking the lives of some of their enemies; and consider it as a stain upon their honour, unless they can return to their native village with some of their skulls. A striking illustration of this occurred at Nunkhlow, in May, 1830. A party of Cassyas, apparently without arms, were admitted as friends within the stockade, and politely received by Mr. Scott, who shortly dismissed them:—but scarcely had they proceeded one or two hundred yards, and within sight of the sentinels, when

they pulled out their concealed weapons, and murdered a poor unoffending dhobee*; at the same time severely wounding others who were washing in company with him. On inquiry, it was ascertained, that some of their relations had been killed, a few days before, by a party of Sebundies, which they were determined to revenge, and had come to the stockade with the determination of murdering Mr. Scott, if an opportunity occurred; but, finding that the guards were vigilant, they were compelled to wreak their vengeance on meaner victims. After this, in transacting business, Mr. Scott always had his double-barrelled guns, and sword, within his reach. Since then, the tranquillity of the Cassya country has been often disturbed—but no general rising has taken place; Mr. Scott having succeeded in conciliating most of the Cassya chieftains.

The principal obstacles to the pacification of the country has been the heroic conduct of a Cassya leader named Monbot. Born in the ignoble condition of a slave to the Rajah Teeruth Singh, he has risen, by his undaunted spirit, to the chief command. Foremost in every fight, although often discomfited, and once severely

* Washerman.

wounded, he has ever breathed the same spirit of defiance, and has proudly expressed his determination never to submit to the British Government with his dying breath. However cruel and perfidious the conduct of the Cassyas may have been, and however erroneous the impression he may labour under, yet, with regard to his means of information, it is impossible not to respect the patriotic feeling which has animated his conduct.

This active leader cut up four or five of our small detachments; he generally succeeded by planting his men in ambush, either in long grass, or behind rocks, who springing up, or darting out upon our men, cut them down before they had time to fire. On one occasion, he pounced, sword in hand, upon our party at Myrung, whilst unarmed and busily employed marketing in the bazar: his sudden appearance of course produced an instantaneous rout, and the men, with great difficulty, escaped to their stockade; he cut down one and wounded others. His career was nearly closed, in May, 1830; Lieut. H. Vetch having received correct information as to his haunt, surrounded the house, at night, with a party. Monbot, seeing himself beset, broke down one side of the house with the in-

tention of escaping; but his egress was barred in this direction, by Lieut. Vetch, who had planted himself there with his fowling piece. Sending an arrow through that officer's cap, Monbot made a last desperate push for the door, and, laying about him with his sword, broke, in the darkness, through the party, and escaped.

For these last two years the attention of Mr. Scott had been much directed towards developing the resources of the Cassya country; and, in his dying hour, what purer consolation could he have felt, than to behold the success attending the Sanatarium, to the establishment of which his exertions had powerfully contributed? In a political point of view, I have been told that, latterly, he looked forward to these and the Neelgherry and Simla hills, as proper sites for establishing colonies, in which a race of hardy European soldiers might be reared, capable of affording us support amidst the various shocks to which our Indian empire may be exposed in future. In speculating upon this, I think he must have had in view the possibility of our maritime supremacy being endangered, thereby cutting off our supply of recruits; although doubtless other contingencies entered into his calculation. It is now not more than fifty years

since the French and English contended, in the Indian ocean, for the sovereignty of the seas; and, since then, the application of steam, to purposes of warfare, has tended to equalize all naval power:—but, at present, there is not much ground for apprehension on that score; although Mr. Cooper has told us that the British flag must succumb to that of America somewhere about the year 1850.

In his mental character, Mr. Scott possessed a vigour and grasp of understanding which is rarely to be met with:—it exercised itself more readily in moral and political discussion, and in scientific pursuits, than in imaginative studies; at the same time, his attainments as a linguist were of no mean order. Mr. Scott was well acquainted with the Persian, Hindostanee, and Bengalee languages, and had attained considerable knowledge of the Assamese and Garrow dialects; but the diversity of his pursuits characterized his mind more than any thing else. The sister sciences of natural philosophy, chemistry, geology, and mineralogy, were not only familiar to him, but, from a knowledge of these, he had made excursions into the realms of natural history and zoology. In his early years he had been much addicted to the study of mechanics,

and practical surveying had been one of his amusements. Being often alone, and at a distance from medical aid, he had been compelled to study medicine; and I have understood, from medical men, that his proficiency, therein, was very respectable. He was in the habit of subscribing to, and reading, the different medical periodicals. From this his attention had been diverted to the kindred science of Physiology, and in this he had made extensive inquiries. A favourite hypothesis of his was, that the difference in the height of large and small men, merely consisted in the superior length of the head, arms, and legs, of the former, and that the bodies were neither larger nor stronger. This physiological opinion was certainly confirmed by measurements taken of the grenadier battalion men of His Majesty's 17th Regiment, by a friend of his: hence he inferred the comparative inefficiency of grenadiers for military purposes; and, reasoning upon much the same principle, he argued, that a small man, on a large horse, would prove much more efficient than a large man, in a cavalry charge, from the superior momentum with which the horse would come in contact with its opponent in the adverse line.

But all these various pursuits were of prodigious advantage to him in administering the

government of an extensive and newly settled country. The soldier might be more familiar with tactics and the general theory of war; but, in regard to jungle warfare, knowledge of localities, or the character of the enemy on the N. E. Frontier, he could scarcely pretend to vie with Mr. Scott: whilst, from his previous official occupations, and habits of inquiry, on all points of reference made to him by subordinate magistrates, collectors, surveyors, or medical men, he was completely at home. On seeing Mr. Scott, for the first time, it struck me with astonishment how he had been able to acquire this diversity of knowledge; knowing, that, throughout his career in India, he had been busily employed; but I ascertained afterwards, that he was in the habit of reading late at night, after his friends had left him for the evening*.

* When I visited Mr. Scott in 1808, his more sedentary occupations, when at leisure from his official duties, were, exclusive of general reading, some particular branches of natural philosophy, as chemistry, practical mechanics, &c.; the last chiefly in connexion with his agricultural pursuits and gardening, both of which he was always extremely partial to. The bent of his mind seemed to lead him constantly to aim at invention, or the improvement of whatever object of public utility occurred to his observation, whether in books or in the world; and, in a country where the arts are in their infancy, a fine field was every where open for the indulgence of a turn which afterwards became so extensively useful. He had happily acquired in

In his public character, the principal trait in Mr. Scott was an entire devotion to the service,

early youth an insatiable love of books, as the only permanent and ever new charm of existence; and none could have entered, more entirely than he, into the feelings with which we might suppose the mind of a Telemachus to have been absorbed, when, keeping the flocks of Metophis in the *Oasis* of Egypt, he breathed that beautiful soliloquy, ending thus: "Happy are they whose amusement is knowledge, and whose supreme delight is the cultivation of the mind! Wherever they shall be driven by the persecutions of fortune, the means of employment are still with them; and that weary listlessness which renders life insupportable to the voluptuous and the lazy, is unknown to those who can employ themselves in reading."

Employment is, indeed, the GREAT SECRET of happiness, and this will be in just proportion to the dignity or meanness of the occupation—but "he has lived with little observation on himself or others," says Dr. Johnson, in the *Rambler*, "who does not know that to be *idle* is to be *vicious**." Mr. Scott's library, though not then extensive, was well chosen, and arranged; so that the general reader was always sure to find abundant amusement, and the more studious something adapted to his particular train of thought, in whatever branch of research his views might lead him. The translations of the Greek and Roman classics; some of the best historians, and most celebrated writers on subjects of natural and moral philosophy and political economy; books of reference; dictionaries of most languages; ancient and modern maps, &c. occupied select corners of his collection. Nor would the lover of works

* Whoever wishes to see this argument powerfully enforced may consult the "Shakespear of English Divinity," Bishop J. Taylor, in his most celebrated work, "*How to Live and Die*:" the former is more particularly referred to in the present instance.

which led him to strain every faculty in promoting measures of general utility, coupled with a rare disinterestedness as to pecuniary matters. In private life, the leading feature in his character was an enlarged and expanded benevolence, which influenced him to exert himself to advance the individual interests of all under his charge, European or native, in as much, as his limited means would permit; and the same feeling led to those simple, unostentatious, but extensive charities, which cheered the hearts of the poor

of fiction, chivalry, or romance, find himself at a loss for congenial pastime, but might even review the enjoyments of his early days in company with De Foe, Richardson, Ann Radcliffe, &c. or even Amadis de Gaul and the renowned son of Mandi. A particular friend of Mr. Scott's and my own, who at a later period, delighted in such books as drew melancholy views of life, or, that tended to steel the mind

"With precepts that would make invincible
"The heart that conn'd them,"

or to wean it from the world, was astonished to find in his library what he termed "his own *casket* selection." Among these were Rasselas, Burton's Anatomy (or Democritus *junior*), Shakespear, Thomas a Kempis, Paradise Lost, Select Works of Bishop Hall, and some others, and told him afterwards, that he would rather pass his life with him at Goruckpore, warring against the tenants of the forest which there abound, and enjoying the "gentle sleeping peace" of his abode and conversation, than be the Emperor Napoleon then in the zenith of his power.—Ed.

and afflicted, within the range of its vivifying influence. It was this charm of goodness which operated on the hearts of the native population, and induced them so generally to look up to and to call Mr. Scott the father of his people: and the same emotion was felt by the European gentlemen under his influence, although not expressed with so much exaggeration.

Mr. Scott's public labours were appalling: they commenced at sunrise; he did not rise from his couch, but immediately began to hear native reports, trials, and other business. About 11 he dressed and breakfasted—but it was not a period of relaxation.—His table was strewed with English letters, which he answered whilst he snatched a hasty meal, and, ever and anon, the amlah were bustling into the room to demand orders upon particular cases. About 12, he went to the kutcherry, and remained until sunset, when he strolled into his garden. When in kutcherry, or, on occasions when visits were paid him, Mr. Scott was in the habit of listening to, and entering freely into conversation with, the natives around him, and encouraged them to open their minds to him. On one occasion, I particularly admired his address. The ex-Rajah of Assam, Poorunder Singh, had been express-

ing himself with warmth in regard to the oppressions committed by the subordinate native officers under our administration, at the same time insinuating that matters were better managed under their native princes. Mr. Scott said there was great truth in this, as regarded the native officers; and, that he would be happy if the Rajah would point out in what manner these excesses were repressed by the native rulers. The Rajah said, that it was their custom to hear all complaints viva voce; afterwards to summon the party complained against; and, if his statement proved unsatisfactory, prompt punishment ensued, without further delay for witnesses: whilst the European gentlemen took down the complainant's deposition, and that of his witnesses; summoned the defendant and took down his statement, then called for his witnesses; ere they arrived a couple of months had elapsed, and the Judge had forgot every thing, and was completely at the mercy of the amlah, who read what they pleased to him; and, after all, the trial might be made over to the Circuit Judge. In justification of the practice of taking written depositions, Mr. Scott replied, "Swurgo Deo, you are of celestial origin, and can recollect every thing. We are earth-born, and when we go to dinner, forget what we have heard in the

course of the day; therefore we write down what we hear." "Swurgo Deo" literally means "Lord of heaven," and is the usual title by which the Rajahs of Assam are addressed; the point of Mr. Scott's reply consisted in his happy application of this.

Mr. Scott carried on all his own correspondence without any assistance: he had two officers of the army as assistants; but they were stationed at a distance from him, in charge of extensive districts. His extensive correspondence made heavy demands upon his time; to carry it on, he was compelled, in hearing causes, or, in making revenue settlements, to snatch a hasty moment of leisure, during the interval that one cause was decided and another brought on, or that one witness had been heard and another was brought in. This incessant labour, I cannot entertain a doubt, accelerated the progress of his malady.

In his early years, Mr. Scott had been particularly fond of hunting and shooting; and even in Assam, amidst such weighty public cares, he was always ready, at the call of his youthful friends, to join them in a tyger, boar-hunt, or other animating sport. Equally skilled in games of chance, although no gambler, he never

refused to engage in any innocent pastime. An admirable shot and horseman*, and always disposed to take an interest in their amusements, these

* On the visit before alluded to, I witnessed, with equal surprise and pleasure, the beautiful horsemanship he had attained, and his wonderful address in all field amusements. He was then a rather delicate, slimly-formed young man in his 22nd year. His astonishing feats in hunting the wild boar, a sport which, above all others, requires, and affords the best opportunities for the display of individual skill and boldness, were the admiration of every one. In truth, I know not better how to describe him at that period than by remarking, that he united, in a degree I have never seen equalled, those various qualifications so well delineated by Mr. Daniel Johnson, in his "Indian Field Sports," who was obviously himself an adept in this branch of the chase, and by Captain Williamson, in his "Wild Sports of the East," as indispensable to perfection in this attractive, but, at the same time, most dangerous of all amusements.

Goruckpore was, at that time, and probably still continues, one of the finest sporting countries in India; abounding in game of every species, which had rarely, if ever, been disturbed: our dominion in that quarter having, then, been of very recent occurrence.

Mr. Scott's favorite game, however, was the wild boar. Such was his ardour in this hazardous amusement, that even when on a tiger, or other hunting excursion, if a boar appeared in sight, however distant, he would instantly descend from his elephant, and, mounting his horse, go off in pursuit, although none of the rest of the party once thought of following, or even imagined he could possibly come up with him; yet he invariably killed his game, to the surprise of every one

qualities endeared him to the young military men around him, and induced them, on his ac-

—indeed, I never knew him fail, with the exception of one instance, which I shall presently relate.

So keen and undaunted was he in this chosen amusement, that he often went out alone in the hottest season of the year, (May and June, when I visited him,) and occasionally met with desperate rencounters. He had always a horse or two laid up in his stable, or at grass, recovering from their wounds. Whoever is unacquainted with wild boar hunting in India (where this animal, I believe, attains the largest size known) may imagine its danger when they are told, that it is not at all uncommon for a horse to be mortally wounded, or disabled for life, in these encounters—besides the hazards the rider runs, not only from so redoubtable a savage as a full grown wild boar, with eye of lightning, "whetting his tusks" and breathing rage, but, from the incessant obstacles usually presented to the hunter by a waste, uncultivated, country, and the treacherous nature of the ground in India, which is frequently full of covered holes, deep and broad cracks and fissures, which, momentarily, threaten the most desperate falls to the sportman.

I quote the following from Mr. Johnson's work, where he speaks of wild boar hunting:—"Following them over rotten ground is the most dangerous part of the sport. It is not uncommon to see two or three horses tumble, at the same instant, going over ground to all appearance, perfectly smooth." The following from Mr. J. is, also, in point—"I was one of a party of eight gentlemen, on a sporting excursion near Patna. Returning one morning from shooting, we met a very large boar in a *rhur* field, from which, with much difficulty, we drove him into the plain, where he stood at bay,

count, to make exertions in the public service, uncalled for by their strict military duty; which I should feel much pleasure in particularizing,

challenging the whole party, boldly charging every horse that came within 50 yards of him, grunting loudly as he advanced. The horse I rode, would not go near him, and, when I was a good way off, he charged another horse with such ferocity, that mine reared and plunged so violently as to throw me—two or three others were dismounted nearly at the same time, and, though there were many *horses* present that had been long accustomed to the sport, not one of them would stand his charge ; he fairly drove the whole party off the field, and gently trotted on to the grass jungle (foaming and grinding his tusks) through which it was impossible to follow or drive him." It is but justice to Mr. Johnson, however, to add that "he was then (as he himself confesses) a novice in the sport."

One day, when Mr. Scott went out alone on these perilous enterprises, I was a good deal alarmed at seeing him, some hours after, arrive at home on foot, literally "dabbled in blood," but, to my joy and no small surprise, altogether unhurt. He had left his horse so severely ripped as to be unable to quit the ground. On this occasion he had lost his spear, which the boar, a very large and powerful animal, had carried off with him into the jungles. The horse was unfortunately entirely ruined as a hunter, but he afterwards employed him at a farm he had established a few miles from the town.

I could easily relate numberless interesting adventures we met with during that period, did the limits of a note (already too long) admit of it—but the various wild animals of the East, as well as the mode of hunting and destroying them,

did my limits admit of it; but I cannot resist giving one instance of this. Perceiving the vast influence that the Cassya leader, Monbut, exercised over the warlike councils of his countrymen, Mr. Scott saw that unless he was secured or killed in battle, there was little prospect of settling the country, and his mind naturally turned to the means of accomplishing this; but the only plan which seemed feasible was that two or three Europeans with double-barrelled guns, should proceed close to his haunts, in the hope that the smallness of their force would induce Monbut to attack them; and, in such a case, Mr. Scott calculated

have so often and so well been described, that the subject seems scarcely susceptible of novelty.

Soon after leaving Mr. Scott, on this occasion, I learned that, in company with Captain W. P. Price, another of our most famous sportsmen (now Colonel in Europe), and other gentlemen, they destroyed above 50 tigers, in little more than a month—a thing not at all extraordinary in a country which nature seemed to have expressly formed as a genial haunt for the creatures of the desert. Mr. Scott, while I was with him, one day killed from his elephant, a large "Boa constrictor" serpent. These are common in that quarter, and grow to 30 or 40 feet in length, and in strength and circumference almost incredible: where such gigantic creatures exist, all the other tenants of the forest (the elephant and rhinoceros, perhaps, alone excepted) fly before them, or become their prey. See the different accounts of the terrific seizure of tigers by the Liboya, a serpent of the same species.—Ed.

that a good shot would inevitably bring him down, and that his disheartened followers, (who seldom amounted to more than 10 or 12 men, unless on grand occasions,) would desist from the attack, appalled by the fate of their leader, and would thus enable our party to retire. So firmly persuaded was he of the practicability of this, that I am convinced he would have undertaken it in person, had not the consideration of his rank deterred him; as Mr. Scott thought, justly, that his possible fall would have afforded too great a triumph to the mountaineers, and the attempt, from one in his high official situation, might not, he feared, in such event, have been favorably viewed by the European community. Considerations of delicacy restrained Mr. Scott from proposing such an adventurous scheme to any one; but he had occasionally mentioned it in conversation. It so happened, that a very intelligent young officer, Ensign Brodie, of the 13th N. I. heard him, on one of these occasions. Of an ardent, adventurous disposition, the idea fired his mind, and he immediately proposed a plan for its accomplishment, which was adopted. Disguised as a Sebundy seapoy, with his face and legs blackened, he started from Nunkhlow, accompanied by a sepoy of tried courage, and two Cossyas in our interest. When near Monbut's

haunts, the Cassyas were led by ropes, as if Ensign Brodie and the sepoy were returning with them, as prisoners, from an expedition:—but, although he sojourned some time in the neighbourhood, the *ruse* did not take effect; Monbut either was absent, or did not choose to risk an encounter with two practised shots, of whose reputation he, no doubt, had heard.

Subsequently this enterprising young officer commanded a party of 25 or 30 Cassyas, who had espoused the British cause, and in the cold season of 1830, when Lower Assam was invaded, performed essential service at their head. Enthusiastically attached to these mountaineers, he was emulous of rivalling them in deeds of hardihood and simplicity of living, and performed astonishing marches, altogether on foot, without a tent, and living on the same fare as his men. Undeterred by the dread of miasma, he penetrated the densest jungles, and ferreted the Cassyas out of their haunts; but the malignant air of these woods proved too much for him, and prematurely closed his gallant career. He sickened of fever in the jungles, and, dragging himself to Nunkhlow, was borne to his grave after a day or two's illness there; his dying hours uncheered by the presence of any

European, who could convey his last wishes to his friends: but his spirit borne up to the last, by the proud consolation of having discharged his duty to his country. Thus perished an officer, of whom Mr. Scott often said, that "he only wanted opportunities to rise to the first posts in the army*." Mr. Scott was highly pleased with the activity and gallantry of Captain Lister, Lieuts. Vetch and Townshend, whilst employed on this service; and, above all, with their gratuitous exertions in promoting negociations with the Cassya leaders, and in conducting other civil duties.

In private life Mr. Scott was the most unassuming of human beings, and his manners the most simple and unpretending. At his table conversation was on the most intimate and easy footing. Fond of discussion, he was, at all times, ready to break a lance with any adversary; but his weapon never carried any offensive wound, nor was he disposed to oppress any man with the superiority of his intellect. Armed at all points, rather than let his intellectual foils be rusted, he was disposed to enter the arena merely for amusement, and took up any side of the argument, al-

* See Mr. Scott's letters to Lieut. Vetch, No. 24 of the Appendix.—Ed.

though somewhat contrary to his real opinion. Gifted with a keen perception of the ridiculous, it did not manifest itself in the ordinary form of quizzing, but in a silent internal laugh, displaying itself by *a smile on the lips, and the sparkling of his small, but lively eyes**. His conversation was replete with humorous anecdotes of the wild tribes around him, which, I regret, my memory has not preserved. In one instance, however, I cannot forget his description of a Garrow entertainment, to which he had been invited. He found the guests seated on their hams. After partaking plentifully of pig, fowl, and rice, large gourds were introduced, filled with a kind of ale, which the Ganymede of the party, a stout Garrow, handed round in a manner which highly amused Mr. Scott. Seizing the nose of one of the guests, he poured the contents down his throat, until the vessel was empty; whilst the lover of malt, if a fresh man, being in great danger of suffocation, made strenuous efforts to escape, to the great amusement of the lookers on. In this manner, he circled round the guests, and made repeated circumvolutions, until the whole party were involved in intoxication.

* How forcibly this passage (which I have put in italics) will recall David Scott to the remembrance of those who knew him!—Ed.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

Extract from a letter from David Scott, Esq. Agent to the Governor General on the North-East Frontier, to G. Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Camp Budderpore, 31st January, 1824.

I HAVE now the honor to submit a report of occurrences on this frontier, since the date of my last dispatch, from the station of Sylhet, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council.

Subsequently to the action* which took place on the 17th instant, Major Newton returned with the force under his command to this place, withdrawing the whole of the troops from Cachar. The Burmese then advanced to Juttrapore, about five miles east of the frontier, and eight from hence, and the two armies from Assam and Munipore formed a junction near that place, and threw a bridge over the Soormah river, on both sides of which they erected stockades.

This day, the vakeel, formerly deputed by the Magistrate of Sylhet to meet the army from Assam, and several messengers who had been dispatched with letters, and

* See London Gazette of the 25th November, 1824, p. 1954.

detained in the Burmese camp, returned with a letter to my address, written in the Bengalee character, but in a dialect which no person in camp understands, so that I have not yet been able to ascertain the contents. From the information brought by the vakeel and messenger, it appears that the Burmese force at Juttrapore is about 6,000 strong, of whom 4,000 are Assamese and Cacharees; they have also a force of about 2,000 men in Hilakondy, of whom one-half are supposed to be Burmahs, so that the number of the latter, who arrived by the way of Munipore, must have been more considerable than might have been supposed from the effect of the opposition made to them by Gumbheer Sing, who himself computed them at 1,000 or 1,500 men carrying muskets.

In a letter from the Burmese commander, to the address of Govind Chunder and the British authorities jointly, received some days ago, as well as from the information now brought by the vakeel, who was confined in the Assamese camp for 18 days; it appears that the Burmese have entered Cachar, upon an invitation formerly given by Govind Chunder. They profess to have no desire of retaining the country themselves, but said they mean to return to Assam viâ Jynteah, after revisiting Govind Chunder, and securing the persons of their enemies Gumbheer Sing, Morjeet and Chourjeet, whom they declare they have orders to follow and seize wherever they may have retired. In the commander's letter, he also complains of the attack made upon him at Bikrampore.

In reply to this letter, and in a communication previously made, I have acquainted the Commander in Chief,

that I had already, in three different letters, informed him, by the way of Assam, that the country of Cachar was under the protection of the British Government, and that the occupation of it would therefore be resisted; and, that, while I regretted the occurrence at Bikrampore, he could not but be sensible that it was entirely attributable to his own conduct in persevering in this unwarrantable encroachment—after repeated intimations that it would not be permitted.

I further called upon him, now that he was convinced that we were in earnest, to evacuate the country without delay, and prevent worse consequences; and I acquainted him that, in case of refusal, I should be compelled, however unwillingly, to order the advance of our troops not only into Cachar itself, but also into Assam, whence the chief part of the invading army had proceeded. In respect to Govind Chunder, I stated, that we had no objection to his re-establishment under the protection, and as the act, of the British Government; and that, although we could not with honor deliver up the Munniporian chiefs, much less suffer them to be arrested in our territory, we would willingly concur so far in his master's views, as to engage that they should not again be permitted to disturb the peace of Cachar. The reply to this communication will be submitted to his Lordship in Council, when received; but with reference to the considerable time that has elapsed since my arrival here, which has hitherto been spent in vain attempts to establish a correspondence with the Burmese, (interrupted until yesterday by their invariably detaining my messengers,) I have considered it proper to make his Lordship

in Council acquainted with our past proceedings ; and to state that, although I am satisfied that the Burmese commander has no intention of committing hostilities in our territories at present, yet I have little expectation of his being induced to retire from Cachar, without recourse being had to coercive measures. The necessity for these appears now more urgent than ever, with reference to the tenor of Mr. Robertson's dispatches, copies of which were conveyed to me in your letter of the 24th instant, and the consequent probability that the court of Ava will avail itself of the presence of the army now in Cachar, to annoy us in this quarter, which, from the want of cavalry on our part, and the number of their forces, there is no doubt they could do to a very great extent, by merely plundering the country in small parties, without ever risking an engagement.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 17th and 24th instant, with their enclosures, to which I shall hereafter reply. In the mean time, I beg to state, that I shall consider myself authorized to prevent the entrance of a Burmese force into the territories of the Jynteah Rajah, by which route they threaten to return to Assam.

Having just received a translation of a document in the Burmese character, that accompanied the Bengalee letter alluded in the fifth paragraph of this address, I find that it differs very considerably from the letter, of which it was supposed to be a counterpart. I have the honor to enclose a translation, and to save time, I have sent the rough copy, which I request may be returned. I also

enclose the original Burmese letter, the Persian version being obviously defective in several places, and, in particular, where it is stated that Gopee (Govind) Chunder went to Ava, and is now with the governor of Assam, that person being still in our territories, and, whatever he may formerly have done, at present disclaiming the connection. I am informed that, after the action on the 17th, messengers were dispatched for instructions to Ava, so that unless previous orders to that effect may in the interim be received, I do not anticipate any hostile movement on the part of the Burmese, until the receipt of an answer.

(Signed) D. Scott,
Agent to the Governor General.

No. 2.

Extract from a letter from David Scott, Esq. Agent of the Governor General on the North East Frontier, to G. Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Camp Budderpore, 3rd February, 1824.

In continuation of the subject of my letter, to your address of the 31st ultimo, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, that my interpreter returned, this day, from the Burmese Camp at Juttrapore, and states that the commander of the forces there, in reply to his demand for an answer to the various letters addressed to him, declared that he would give none until he received instructions from Ava, to which place he had dispatched messengers.

The interpreter says, that the commander behaved to him in a very outrageous manner, sometimes threatening, in a violent passion, to cut off his head, and sometimes declaring, that he would satisfy his resentment by marching to England. He further states, that they said that the governor of Assam was not with the army; but, on consideration of the tenor of the Burmese letter, of which a translation was submitted with my postscript of yesterday's date, I think it is not improbable that they have been induced to make this declaration, with reference to the contents of my letters of date the 23rd ultimo and 1st instant, of which translations are annexed, in hopes of preventing the advance of our troops into Assam.

The Jynteah Rajah has, with the usual procrastinating policy of the native Princes, declined entering into a treaty of alliance, until, as he says, the necessity may prove very urgent. I have pointed out the folly of this line of conduct, in the strongest terms; and, with a view to prevent his being intimidated into submission, by the approach of the Burmese army, I have, in the mean time, promised him the assistance of our troops, provided he himself makes all the opposition he can; and declared, that if he admit the Burmese into his territories, without doing so, we shall treat him as an enemy.

He has collected a considerable force, said to amount to several thousand archers; and has undoubtedly the means of defending his own territory, at least until assistance could be afforded him, should he, from his conduct, appear to deserve it.—I would propose presenting him

with a part of the muskets that are expected from Calcutta.

I have the honor of forwarding a translation of a letter respecting the Jynteah country, which I am just about to despatch to the Burmese commander.

In respect to the exercise of the power with which his Lordship has been pleased to vest me, of eventually directing the advance of the troops into Assam, I shall observe the utmost caution. Of the inconvenience that might result from such a movement, I am fully aware; and it is only in case it should appear to be indispensable towards compelling the evacuation of Cachar, before the commencement of the unhealthy season, that I should venture to have recourse to it. In that case, also, I shall at the same time address you by express; and there will still be time to countermand the order, viâ Rungpore, should it then appear inexpedient to Government.

(Signed) D. Scott,
Agent to the Governor General.

No. 3.

Copy of a Letter from David Scott, Esq. Agent of the Governor General on the North East Frontier, to G. Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Camp Budderpore, 4th February, 1824.

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Coun-

cil, that nothing material has occurred in this quarter, since the date of my despatch of the 2nd.

This day I received, from the Acting Magistrate of Sylhet, a letter in the Burmese character, addressed by the commander of their forces, to the Rajah of Jynteah, and forwarded by the Rajah to Mr. Turquand,

An interpreter, whom I expect soon, not having arrived, I have as yet been unable to ascertain the contents of this letter, which are also unknown to the Rajah himself; and as it is not improbable that it may be of an important nature, I enclose a copy of it without a translation, for the information of Government.

My letter of the 2nd, to the Burmese commander, was this morning returned after being opened, upon pretence of its being directed to one, instead of the two commanders. I have since dispatched it with the necessary explanation, and it is my intention, should the Burmese proceed towards Jynteah, to send a detachment to assist the Rajah's troops in the defence of the stockades he has erected on the frontier of his country.

Although no treaty has yet been executed, for the reason stated in my last despatch, I hope this measure will be approved of by Government, as the abandonment of the Rajah's cause, at this critical juncture, would be productive of the most injurious consequences, by placing at the disposal of the Burmese the whole means he has collected to oppose them, and, still more so, by

the panic that their progress in that direction could not fail to create at the station of Sylhet, which has once already been almost entirely deserted by the inhabitants, on a false and absurd alarm.

(Signed) D. Scott,
Agent to the Governor General.

P. S. As the letter to the Rajah of Jynteah could not be copied in time, for transmission by this-day's dawk, it will be sent to-morrow.

No. 4.

Extract of a letter from the Governor General in Council, at Fort William in Bengal, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, dated 23rd December, 1825.

The proceedings of the Burmese in Assam had materially altered the relative position of the two powers, and placed the former, as they well knew, and often boasted, in a situation the most favourable for making a sudden descent into our territories along the Berhampooter. The establishment of their authority in that country had been, from the beginning, viewed with just alarm by the civil commissioner Mr. D. Scott, (one of the most upright and intelligent of your servants,) who well aware of the grasping, restless, and ambitious spirit which actuated the Burmese councils, distinctly foresaw, and pointed out, the danger threatening the whole line of our eastern frontier from the change of masters, which the principality of Assam had experienced.

It is worthy of remark that, in the early stage of our disputes, the Burmese chiefs in Assam declared, that in 1822, Mengee Maha Silwa, at the head of an army of 20,000 men, deliberately meditated the plunder of Gowalparah, and the adjacent country, where no British force could possibly be assembled adequate to check his progress, and they made it matter of reproach against the English, that, notwithstanding the forbearance shown by them on that occasion, we were assembling troops to oppose their designs upon Cachar and Jynteah.

No. 5.

Letter from Lt. Hamilton Vetch, of the Assam Light Infantry, to Col. Arch. Watson, dated Jorehaut, 9th December, 1831.

My dear Sir,

I had not seen a great deal of Mr. Scott till his return to Nunkhlow, from Sylhet, in September 1829; at that time he was suffering considerably from his complaint, and in low spirits from the loss of three of his most intimate friends*, who had fallen by the Cassyas within the last four months. His disease, at this time, often obliged him to sleep in a sitting posture, and frequently prevented his getting any sleep at all; still his application to business never relaxed, and generally, he commenced hearing petitions, and cases read to him, by daylight in the morning, and often continued at work till it was dark. Sometimes we used to ride through the

* Lts. Bedingfeld and Burlton, and Dr. Beadon.—Ed.

country, to visit different villages, and endeavour to bring the people to our interest, or gain information of the outlaws ; that means might be taken for their capture ;—for, at this time, the Cassyas had given up all attempts at open resistance, but had commenced on a more annoying system ; that of attacking coolies coming with supplies, or cutting off their own countrymen who seemed too favourably inclined to our Government. Although Mr. Scott could scarcely walk from the palpitation of his heart, and, indeed, seldom attempted it, still this was no obstacle to his undertaking long and difficult journies. Mounted on a small, but strong and active mule, dressed in his tartan shooting jacket, with his double-barrelled gun in his hand, (for he rarely quitted it,) I have seen him climb hills, and descend ravines, where it was astonishing his mule kept its footing, or he his seat.

On one of these rides, when returning from Myrong, we took a circuit, in hopes of obtaining some information of the outlaws, and intended to have been at Nunkhlow to dinner. In a suspicious part of the road, we saw a Cassya at a distance, whom we were anxious to secure in hopes of getting some information from him. I tried to gallop round, and hinder his escape, but he was too alert for us, and in passing through some jungle, where I had lost sight of him, I came upon five Sebundies, who were retreating from a large body of the outlaws, who, they said, were far too strong for them, and pointed me out some rocks, where they said the enemy were ; I sent word back to Mr. Scott, and we proceeded with our party to the place, which was a jumble of rocks and ravines, covered with

jungle, creepers, brambles, brush-wood, and trees. Immense masses of granite, overhanging each other, or rolled together, formed numerous caves and fissures, communicating with one another. In this place about a hundred armed outlaws had taken shelter, well knowing the security of such a retreat: for, in attacking one entrance, a party was exposed to be shot at from perhaps half a dozen other holes in the rocks, so hid by jungle, that it was impossible to know from which side to expect their arrows, and the ground was so broken into precipices, that only one or two men could have been brought to bear on a point. We found little could be done without a larger detachment than we had brought; the Cassyas, however, had defied us, and commenced shooting out of their holes; and we determined, if possible, to keep them where they were, till more men should be sent for, and the place, if possible, surrounded. Their arrows, from the holes, were answered by our musket balls: the sepoys watching their opportunity to fire in. We now learned from a villager of the neighbourhood, that most of the outlaws had provided themselves with iron shields, which they hoped to find proof against our musketry. We had endeavoured to force the only accessible entrance we could discover, but it was strongly barricaded, and only one could have entered by it at a time; it was well defended by the Cassyas, who were, from a turn in the cave that protected them from our fire, able to command its mouth. At this place, standing behind a projecting piece of rock, and firing our pistols into the hole, from which arrows were flying, both Mr. Scott and myself, heard the balls ring on what we supposed to be their iron shields; and next day it proved

to be the case, as we found a shield near this entrance dented with the balls.

In passing between two rocks, Mr. Scott was on the point of stepping over a small fissure, when he heard a rustle below, and immediately drew back his head, while, at the same instant, an arrow almost grazed his face from below, and, but for his sudden drawing back, must have lodged in his throat. Mr. Scott, I have always heard, entered most keenly into affairs of this sort, and exposed his person, as some might think, to much unnecessary danger. While we were thus engaged, a thunder-storm came on, and the heavy rain which followed, made us slacken our fire. This was immediately observed by the Cassyas, who made the rocks resound with their shouts; calling out, now that the muskets would not go off, it was their turn; and, plying their arrows with more vigour than ever, wounded some of our men.—Night was fast approaching, and all we could possibly hope for was to keep the enemy where they were, till a stronger party should join us in the morning, when we might be able to secure the whole of them: but we were not aware that these caves communicated with some woody dales below; and, during the night, while some of the Cassyas kept the sentries on the alert, at their posts, by shouting and discharging arrows, the others were making their escape in a different direction, and carrying off their wounded.

Mr. Scott and myself occupied (during the night) a wretched hut, near the spot, wet, tired, and hungry; but a message had been despatched to Nunkhlow, and, about nine o'clock, abundance of good cheer and some capital

champagne arrived, to which we heartily paid our devoirs, and I never saw Mr. Scott in higher spirits, or more entertaining in his conversation than when sitting on the floor of this wretched hovel, where the rain was dropping in upon us through the roof.

Although a good deal of firing had been kept up by the sentries during the night, all was silent among the rocks at day-break; and it was soon discovered the place was deserted. By scrambling on our hands and knees, we got down into the caves, but found nothing, except a few dead bodies, broken pots, bows, and empty quivers, strewed about in all directions. We got about 40 of the iron shields before mentioned, which evidently had not answered the expectations of the owners, as one man was lying dead on his, which had been put up to protect him, but a musket ball had passed through it into his forehead; and others that had been placed as a defence at some of the holes, were riddled with balls. I, however, doubt if they would not have proved a protection against musketry at 70 or 80 yards, and a fowling piece of small bore would not have pierced them at perhaps more than half that distance.

After examining the caves, parties went, in different directions, in pursuit of the fugitives: but the country was too woody and difficult to afford much hope of coming up with them; and as they had likely dispersed, and disposed of their arms, it was only a few of the leaders that could have been recognised from peaceable subjects, even if we had come among them. Mr. Scott went to Nunkhlow by a different route from myself, and told me

(afterwards), that, in passing through a jungly ravine on the way, he heard an arrow which passed his head, but could not see any one for the jungle; and, as he had only three or four sepoys with him, was not able to make a search for the person who had shot at him.

I had forgot to mention that we tried to smoke out the Cassyas with stink pots, some of which we had with us; but they were badly made, and the numerous vents and fissures in the rocks, allowed all the smoke to pass upwards; and I suspect we came in for a greater share of it than the enemy, who did not seem to care for it, while we were glad to shift our ground.

I have entered more fully into the detail of this little affair than I would have done, but it was the only one in which Mr. Scott was with me. He was out in many others, with the Sylhet Corps, before I arrived at Nunkhlow; and, after I came to the hills, I was employed, by myself, in a different direction from where Mr. Scott was. From this time I saw much more of Mr. Scott, and was greatly taken with his kind and affable manners, which before I had fancied rather reserved. His application to business, and the quantity he got through, quite astonished me; I used often to be awoke before day-break by the amlah reading cases to him; at other times, when starting from Nunkhlow, long before day-light in the morning, on some expedition or other, which he was always planning, for the surprise of the outlaws, I have found him wrapt in his cloak, busy, answering letters. This I believe to have been a constant practice of his, and, in some measure accounted for the mass of business he mas-

tered, and the great literary and scientific knowledge he possessed.

I have never seen any one who endeared himself more to young sportsmen than Mr. Scott, (having been one of the first in India in his day :) he was always willing, when he could spare time, to enter into their pursuits, and that with much relish. I have been with him rhinoceros shooting on elephants, and snipe shooting, he in his tonjon, and I on foot; and he seemed as much at home with his gun, in the latter, as in the howdah, seldom missing his bird.

He took much interest in experiments, in ball and shot shooting. It was some time before he would give the preference to detonators; but, being at last convinced of their superior quickness, they became his favourite guns. He had a small guard of his own, armed with double barrels of this description, which would have been found of the greatest service to him in case of emergency, in rainy weather, when any other kind of gun would have been almost useless; and to these emergencies he was constantly exposed. He thought detonators would prove a leveller to all gun-smiths, as he considered the lock to be that in which first-rate ones so much excelled their inferiors in gun-making.

The more intimately one became acquainted with Mr. Scott, the more it must have been to esteem so excellent and benevolent a man. His ear was always attentive to the voice of complaint, by whomsoever preferred, or at whatever hour, however unseasonable; and won for him

the hearts of the injured, and the respect of all. Compelled by necessity often to adopt severe measures against the Cassyas; it was their own obstinacy and treachery that forced him to it: for no man could have been more kind or conciliatory to all placed under his control, than Mr. Scott was; and he took as much interest in improving the condition of all the Cassyas within his reach, as if he had been their father, instead of governor. Exerting himself to the utmost in the performance of his duty, he exacted the same from all under him, and his example gave a stimulus to the most indolent.

Although constantly studying the benefit of all the various tribes in his extensive district, the Assamese, as the most numerous, obtained the greater share of his attention and favours; but his scheme for colonizing and improving the Cassya hills, was one of the objects he had most deeply at heart.

(Signed) HAMILTON VETCH.

No. 7.

Letter from Mr. Scott to Dr. Lamb, Mymunsing, 10th April.

MY DEAR LAMB,

SINCE we parted I have been living as quietly as possible; endeavouring, by avoiding all exertion, during the day, to continue in the state I feel myself in the morning; and, to a certain extent, this has, I think, been effected, although other bad symptoms have recurred, of

which I was in hopes that I had got rid. The night after we left you, I had a considerable palpitation on going to bed, and I took a dose of the hydrocyanic acid, that Mr. Beadon might observe the effects of it with the stethoscope. None however were produced, and I passed a most restless night, with frequent and severe starting; as bad, I think, as I had at any preceding time experienced. In the morning, I took laudanum, and this I have since continued, at night, until yesterday; sleeping well upon the whole, but with a good deal of interruption from starting, in the early part of the night, particularly. During this time, I have not eaten any thing in the evening, nor drank wine. You were so good as to promise me a statement of my case, when with you, which was in part drawn out. Will you be so good as to send it, as Mr. Beadon is not aware what has been done, and in what state I was some time ago, and is therefore inclined to try the digitalis and other remedies that have already altogether failed: and will you, at the same time, state what you think the best general course to pursue. With best regards to the ladies, and many thanks for your extreme kindness to me,

I am,

Your's most sincerely,

D. Scott.

P. S. I have received your note by Mr. Imlach, to whom I shall be most happy to afford every assistance in my power, in the prosecution of the speculations he has in view.

No. 7.

Letter from Mr. Beadon to Mr. Lamb, Singamaree, 28th April, 1827.

My dear Sir,

Your kind letter I received yesterday, and feel particularly obliged for Mr. Scott's case, previous to my joining him; but I hope the world will not benefit by it for a long time yet. Had I not heard from you, it was my intention to have written shortly. About three days after you left us, Mr. Scott observed, that he thought the sensation conveyed to his fingers was what Laennec describes as the cat-mutter. I told him I thought not exactly that, although evidently not altogether a natural action of the heart; and I *luckily* added, that the sensation from the instrument was just what he would suppose from feeling it with his hand. The third night after your departure, Mr. S. had a bad night; and, again, three nights after that; and, on both occasions, I used the stethoscope, but there was no perceptible increase either in the action of the heart, or the thrill; and, as we were doing nothing, and so many remedies had been tried unsuccessfully, I urged tonics, with small doses of calomel; as I thought an alterative plan had never been fairly tried, and that we should then be able to form a more decided opinion as to disease or not.—Mr. S. at last agreed; and, as we had no other tonic than the cheretta, I proposed a pint of that daily, hydr. sub. gr. ½—extr. colocynth. c.—grey pulv. ipecac. gr. ½ at night; as I had observed, that the preceding two bad nights, the bowels had not been regular. Since we have begun the above remedies, I have of course

watched Mr. Scott very carefully, and am happy to say, he has not had one bad night since. His appetite is *good;* he drinks three or four glasses of wine, daily; has taken a good deal of exercise—having been shooting almost every evening; pulse rather less, and not so full; the thrill, I thought last night, for the first time, rather less than before; and, what I think a very good symptom was, that having had information of a tiger the day before yesterday, we did not return to dinner until past nine o'clock, whereas every day previous we had dined at four: in consequence of dining so late, Mr. S., when in bed, felt as if his dinner disagreed with him, and feverish; had a bad night, but says that his heart did not trouble him once: when asleep, he says, that he does not awake with the starting now; but will not allow that it is *altogether* gone; but freely acknowledges he is much better, and does not think so much of his heart. At the former part of my letter, I made use of the word *luckily*, and I will now tell you why. Last night I went, as I usually do every second, or third night, to use the stethoscope, and, to my surprise, Mr. Scott called for *something*, which, when produced, turned out to be a tin stethoscope, so made, that he could use it himself; however, he did not appear to hear more than he expected, and, I rather hope, not so much; for he has had a good night, feels very comfortable, and is going on with the cheretta. I can bring forward no argument, that the whole of the servants have not brought against it, as he has sounded every one of them. I am very sanguine as to his recovery. You would oblige me very much by giving me your candid opinion, as to whether or not I am justified in pursuing my plan under existing

circumstances. Of course I watch Mr. S. very narrowly, and not the slightest symptom can pass unnoticed. Query—If disease really exists, by the plan now in practice, I am shortening Mr. Scott's days ; if those days are made much more comfortable to his feeling, am I justified ? Most sincerely hoping that my next will be as favourable as the present one, with compliments to Mrs. Lamb,

I am,
My dear Sir,
Your's much obliged,
HENRY L. BEADON.

P. S. Should any thing in the smallest degree unfavourable occur, you shall be immediately informed of it.

No. 8.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Singamaree, 8th May.

MY DEAR LAMB,

I HAVE given so many contradictory accounts of the state of my health, that I have now delayed writing to you, until I might ascertain whether the amendment that took place after the despatch of my last letter, was likely to prove at all permanent. Since the 16th ultimo, I have not had a bad night, nor any starting of consequence ; but, at the same time, I do not think that the palpitation is much, if at all, abated ; nor is there any alteration in the thrilling (I fancy) *purring* sensation, with which it is attended. I have been taking bitters and alteratives, and living well ; going out also to shoot, occasionally, from which I have not experienced any bad consequences. Nevertheless, there is not so great an abatement of the

chief symptom, as I experienced about the time I was at *Naraingong*.—Many thanks for the drawings, and the promised oat seed. I never saw this lizard—in color it resembles the biskopra, but the latter has a shorter tail, and is considered (I believe without foundation) poisonous by the natives. We had a tremendous storm of hail a few days ago; which, if it extended so far, must, I fear, have greatly injured your coffee crop. I collected a sufficient quantity of the stones to enable me to ascertain the rate at which ice melts; and the result leaves no doubt as to the feasibility of supplying Calcutta from Churra Poonjee. The contents of a small bucket, weighing about 14lbs., and not exceeding eight or nine inches in diameter, took about 40 hours to melt, so that a mass of —— in every direction would not be entirely consumed in less than about a month; and, as the voyage might, by proper means, be performed in fifteen days, a sufficient portion of every cargo would reach the presidency. We have been shooting tigers and rhinoceroses, or, rather, shooting *at* the latter; having seen six the day before yesterday, and failed in killing even one. With best regards to the Ladies,

I am, Your's very sincerely,

D. Scott.

P. S. I have not ventured to take (moogdur*) exercise yet, but have rode a good deal, slowly, without any inconvenience.

D. S.

* This is an exercise common in India. It consists in throwing the arms (with a short and very heavy club in each hand) successively over the head and opposite shoulders. Its object is to expand and strengthen the chest and arms.—Ed.

No. 9.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Singamaree, 20th May.

My dear Lamb,

A very favourable report having been made by *Fisher* and *Tucker* on the country about Churra Poonjee, I am in hopes, that Government will now take some decisive steps for the establishment of a Sanatary; and I have written to recommend, that a Surgeon should be appointed to take charge, and carry into effect whatever arrangements may be necessary to render it speedily and extensively available to the public. Much will, however, depend upon the person who may be appointed to superintend it, as he must not only be of good medical repute, but also capable of keeping the visitors, or their followers, in order; mediating any differences that may arise between them and the fiery mountaineers; and negociating with the latter for lands, and privileges, and whatever else may be required to give efficacy to the plan. Although it is not probable, that you could be tempted to leave your comfortable residence at Dacca for this untried land; yet, from what I have heard you say of the Jynteah country, I think it is not altogether impossible that you might be induced to undertake the duty, as a not unpleasant mode of passing the few years you mean to remain in the country. In your hands, I know the experiment would have a fair trial; while, to lady visitors, Mrs. L.'s presence would prove a powerful means of attraction; and probably soon collect all that seems wanting to render the place a delectable residence, an agreeable society. From *Fisher's* report, it appears that the difficulties of

the ascent have been much exaggerated. He corroborates all that we heard of the climate and appearance of the country. The height he makes 4,200 feet by the barometer, and states the temperature of spring water to be 58, or, I believe, only two degrees more than it is in England. My best regards to the Ladies—I continue pretty well.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 10.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowahatty, 30th August.

My dear Lamb,

Since I last wrote you, I received a copy of Laennec's book; and agreeably to the plan of treatment laid down there, I have been bled repeatedly, and am considerably reduced, but without any amendment; and, as Mr. Beadon seems now to be quite at a loss what course to pursue, and rather consults my inclination than any fixed plan, I should be glad to have your opinion on the subject. After an attentive perusal of Laennec's book, both Mr. B. and myself agreed, as to the probability of the disease being what he terms, a hypertrophy of the heart, in all probability, conjoined, as seems often to be the case, with a nervous affection of the same organ. The cat-mutter is stated by Laennec to be a symptom of the one as well as the other; and it is, in my case, extended to the arteries as well as the heart. There seems also to be no doubt, that there is increased arterial action, depending,

according to Laennec, upon a nervous affection; and, where this is the case, he says that bleeding is clearly indicated, although, in other nervous cases, it may prove prejudicial. The first effect of my bleeding 18 oz. was to raise the pulse from 74 or 5 to 80, and this, more particularly, in the morning, at the time when I used to feel, comparatively speaking, quiet. I have since been bled three times, to the same extent, without any considerable alteration, except that the pulse feels not quite so strong, although more frequent. It is now 90 when I go to bed, and 80 or 82 in the morning, falling afterwards, when I sit up, to 75 or 76. I sleep, nevertheless, very well, sometimes with, and sometimes without, digitalis. I have scarcely any appetite, but digest what I do take very well. The thrill or cat-mutter, below the left clavicle, and in the carotid arteries, has, I think, become decidedly worse. The sound of the heart, felt at the ribs, is much the same as it was, and the thrill feels, as it were, higher up. Mr. B. is evidently quite at a loss how to proceed. He, at first, seemed to be *convinced*, that there was an organic disease; but he now, occasionally, seems to doubt it, and, in fact, evidently does not know what to think. The internal sensation of the thrill is becoming every day more and more intense; but, according to Laennec, this does not necessarily imply organic lesion, and is, on the contrary, not uncommon in cases purely nervous. The swelling in the legs, &c. has certainly not increased, since I saw you; but I so constantly keep them up, that it is not easy to say what might be the case were I to neglect this precaution. After the first two bleedings, I was a good deal incommoded by the starting of which I complained at Dacca; but that has now very much dimi-

nished, and it has not, at any time, been so bad as to prevent my sleeping. The most marked *new* fact that I have lately observed is, that there is a considerable difference between the rate of the pulse in the recumbent and sitting posture. This morning it fell from 84 to 78; rose again, on lying down, to 82; fell, on sitting up, to 76; rose again to 80 or 82, and fell again to 76, all in the course of an hour and a half—what does this imply? The sensation of sleeping in the extremities, I still experience, if any slight and continued pressure happens to be applied to a limb; but it is by no means so common as when I was at Dacca, and I sleep much better; not having had above two or three restless nights for the last six weeks. Of wine I take one glass, and very little meat, &c.—Do you think I ought to proceed with the bleeding plan or not? The other I have tried, and although I appeared somewhat better, at first, I derived no ultimate benefit from it; but, rather, got worse. Have you got any account of Vasalva's mode of treating aneurisms? That is what Laennec recommends. We all beg to be remembered to the Ladies.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 11.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Nunkhlow, 14th April.

My dear Lamb,

I regret exceedingly to hear of the unfortunate commencement and termination of your journey, from which I sincerely hope that none of you will suffer any further

bad effects. I very much fear, that the accounts I formerly sent you of there being no north-westers in the hills, may have led you and Mrs. Lamb to go up worse prepared than you would otherwise have done. The people here and at Churra Poonjee were so positive on the subject, that I could not help believing them; although I had myself experienced a squall on the inferior elevation of the Jynteah country. At this place it blows what may be called a gale of wind, from W. S. W., very similar to the hot winds up the country, but with the agreeable difference of being quite cool and pleasant. I have unfortunately broken my hygrometer, but you may be able to form some judgment of the degree of moisture in the atmosphere, from the fall, by evaporation, on wetting the bulb of the ordinary thermometer, which is now about four degrees. The thermometer itself stands, now (2 P. M.) at 74; in the morning I did not observe it. The sky is a fine clear blue, with a few small clouds sailing away to the eastward. This appearance I have observed since I have been in Assam, throughout the hot weather; all the clouds, at a great elevation, proceeding to the eastward; while those nearer the ground, and the wind itself blowing, in exactly the contrary direction. The circumstance of the wind being westerly is, I think, favourable to the salubrity of the climate; at least so it is thought in Hindoostan, notwithstanding the intolerable heat with which it is generally accompanied. I have written to Tucker about the road, on which head I would, by no means, despair after what has been done in this quarter. A secure and comfortable hut ought, however, to be built at Churra, in the first instance; for without that, it is impossible for any one to set leisurely about

exploring a better route; with a half-way house between this and Churra Poonjee, the journey might very well be performed in two days; the direct distance being much less than double what it is from this to the plain; and the ups and downs of the road infinitely less numerous. If I were sure of good quarters at Churra Poonjee, I would make arrangements to go over now; but, without a secure place to go into there, it would not answer. Did you hear any thing about the cave which was said to be on the top of the hill, and have you seen, or have you any intention of again visiting, the one at Pandua? I have been requested by Mr. Swinton particularly, to examine it for fossil bones; which, indeed, I did, as far as we went in 1824; but, if there is any thing of the sort, I think it is most likely that they will be found at the bottom of the deep pit, from which they could not well be removed by the action of the water, that may be supposed to have swept the part we examined. I wished, much, amongst other matters, to know what you now thought of my case. In point of general health, I am tolerably well; and I feel no incapacity for, nor any bad effects from, exercise, however long continued, if not attended with any considerable exertion. The cat-mutter, however, continues, I think, to increase, and the swelling in the legs is much the same. I have had a seton in my breast for the last fortnight, from which I have not experienced any sensible effects. The palpitation is, upon the whole, somewhat less, but it is still quite audible when I am in bed, and distinctly attended with occasional throbs of increased force. The thrill I can feel internally, which I do not recollect doing when I saw you; and it extends to other parts, particularly the

thigh, when the leg is bent, and the artery probably compressed. Have you seen, or would you like to see, Laennec's book? I can send it over from this. How long do you propose remaining at Sylhet? With best regards to Mrs. Lamb,

Your's very sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 12.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Nunkhlow, 23rd May.

My dear Lamb,

I returned yesterday from an expedition to Maplong, situated 22 miles in advance of this place, on the way to Churra Poonjee. It is considerably higher than this place, about 12 or 1300 feet, making the total altitude above Assam 5,500 by a good barometer. There are some hills still higher, so that they must approach very nearly to 6,000 feet above the sea, with which elevation the temperature agreed very well; the thermometer stands at 58 in the morning, and 70 and 72, on two different days, in the afternoon. From what I have now seen of the road, I am satisfied, that, with proper preparations, Mrs. Lamb could travel it with the greatest ease. I had no occasion to dismount, except for about four yards, all the way to Maplong; and I rode back on the same mule, in eight hours. I do not like the climate of Maplong so well as this, judging from the part of three days that we were there. It was close, and the heat of the sun much less bearable than it is here, where there is

almost always a fine breeze from the westward. This difference is probably occasioned by the Burhampooter, down the course of which an easterly wind almost always blows at this season, for which a supply of air, by a contrary upper current, must be required. The country after the first 10 or 12 miles is cleared of trees, and not nearly so pretty as it is here; but the slate cliffs, about Maplong, are much grander than the Gowahatty hills of this part; the former being very precipitous, and the latter always round. Some evenings ago, after a shower of rain, the scenery towards Assam was beautiful beyond any thing we ever saw, or what, judging from its cold-weather appearance, I could have expected. We saw the course of the Burhampooter for 90 miles downwards, and about 40 upwards; the view being there closed by hills. The gradation of tints, from the rich velvet-green of the hills, in our immediate neighbourhood, to the different shades of those at various distances to 100 miles, was most superb; and I must re-call what I once, I think, said, that Mrs. Lamb would be disappointed in the scenery. I have settled with the people at Maplong, about building a house, which will render the journey, from Churra Poonjee, very easy. On horse-back it might be travelled "to this place" in one day; but, supposing Mrs. Lamb to use the tonjon* in bad places, and to relieve the bearers, by riding occasionally, she could come at any time of the year, with great ease, in three days; or in two, by making a morning and an evening stage from Maplong. We were very much gratified at Maplong by seeing a Cassya dance. The costume was most elegant; and the dresses, considering the situation

* An open chair, with a hood, carried on men's shoulders.—Ed.

of the parties, really splendid. I never saw any thing, in the way of dress, off the stage, to be compared to it. Campbell, from Sylhet, went back with us to Maplong, and thence to Churra Poonjee. After seeing our mules and horses scramble over the worst parts of the road, he altered his opinion, considerably, in respect to the portion between Maplong and Churra, which he had previously considered impassible without dismounting. The weather continues much the same. The thermometer is higher in the morning, as much as 68, but it has never risen in the house above 76; and owing to the fine breeze, that is always blowing, it feels much cooler than it did at Maplong. We have had very little rain, only three slight showers, while they have been deluged in Assam. There have been some loud claps of thunder, but nothing that could be called a north-wester, or severe squall, from any quarter. With best regards to the ladies,

Your's sincerely,
D. Scott.

No. 13.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, on the Burhampooter, 11th July, near Gowahatty.

My dear Lamb,

I have the pleasure to send, for comparison with your register of the state of the wind, the account kept in this quarter. There has been an unusual prevalence of westerly wind for this season of the year, which is perhaps an advantage, as it will more clearly shew whether or not

there is any corresponding irregularity at Dacca. The observations in May were made at Singamaree, from the 8th of June to the 4th of this month, at Gowalpara; and subsequently, above it. The man has only put down E. and W.—N. and S; but generally speaking, the wind, when from the former directions, blows due E. or W. as it may be: when from the S. it is generally a little to the eastward of it; and when from the north, usually to the westward. I hope you will observe, hourly, on the 17th of this month; which has been appointed for observation of thermometer, barometer, hygrometer, and all the other meters, all over the world. This intimation will, I fear, prove too late; but I hope you may have seen the notice in Brewster's Journal. I continue in much the same state. The thrilling, a little below the clavicle, is I think, if any thing, increasing. My pulse has also, for some days past, been quicker than formerly, having risen from 75 and 78 to 80 and 84 beats. I do not observe that there is any corresponding increase in the violence of the pulsations. I have been taking blues and rhubarb for the last week, with good effect, and this increase in the pulse commenced about the same time; but the dose is, I think, insufficient to produce such an effect. I had a slight attack of fever one night lately; and, during it, I felt, very plainly, how much I should suffer from a fever; the action of the heart being much increased, and the starting, experienced when I first arrived at Dacca, having returned. I do not observe much difference in the state of my feet and legs; but there is a decided tendency to swell, slightly, when I remain in the perpendicular position. My best regards to the ladies. Mrs. G. will be surprised to learn, that Mr. S. has become a

first rate performer at whist; barring a revoke now and then.

Your's very sincerely,

D. Scott.

P. S. My cow-boat was wrecked yesterday; and I tried this morning a bottle of milk, prepared with *(sugar?)* in the Lukeerja river, which was perfectly fresh, and, I really think, not distinguishable, in coffee or tea, from new milk.—I observe that this mode of preserving milk is noticed by Dr. Paris in his Pharmacologia.

No. 14.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowahatty, 18th July, 1827.

My dear Lamb,

I shall be happy to see Mr. Imlach, and to afford him what aid I can. I should think indigo would thrive well, as it is to be found growing wild almost every where. The quantity of rain is, no doubt, considerable; although probably not more than is experienced about *Cheelmaree*, and, in some parts of the Rungpore district, where indigo thrives very well. The rivers, here, overflow much sooner than in Bengal, and the cultivation of *churs* and low lands would not, therefore, perhaps answer; but there is a great deal of high land, which is also much richer, if we may judge from the color, than is usual in Bengal. There would, no doubt, be a great difficulty in getting workmen at first; but that would probably wear off. It is the most formidable objection, and would, I fear, more than counter-

balance, at first, the superior facility of getting land. I do not get any better. The thrilling and cat-mutter noise, appear to me to increase; but I do not think that the swelling of the legs does so, or, indeed, that it is more now than it has been for several years. With best respects to the Ladies,

Your's very sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 15.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowahatty, 18th July, 1827.

We had some reason latterly to doubt the salubrity of Nunkhlow, towards the end of May and beginning of June, having almost all suffered more or less from slight bowel complaints. The sickness amongst the servants was, also, most alarming; and this is a most serious drawback upon the advantages of a temporary residence at Nunkhlow. The Bengalees say that they are not subject to the like sickness at Churra Poonjee, which is reckoned by the Cassyas, also, a healthier place than Nunkhlow. In the case of our servants, the passage through the jungly tract that occupies the first 25 miles of the road, may have *some* effect. If Mr. Fenwick could be set up at Churra, I would undertake to make the road passible for tonjons, if not horses, by means of a party of Assamese convicts; and, with proper bearers, I cannot think that much difficulty would be experienced in getting up. The low country bearers would never answer, unless they had previously been broken in to hill-work; but I have no doubt

that the Cassyas themselves, would soon learn to carry a double-poled tonjon; if not on their shoulders, slung in their own way, over the head. We had this time the means of ascertaining the elevation, which is more considerable than I supposed. Jones thinks that the country about *Nurtung* is as high as at Nunkhlow; when I crossed over that way, I only estimated it at about 2,000 feet, but I now think I must have been wrong, and I could not, indeed, at the time, account for the great change of temperature at so small an elevation. I send you a section of the Nunkhlow and Churra route, and some observations of the thermometer, barometer, &c. We have had a great deal of rain here, and the river is unusually high. With best regards to the Ladies,

Your's very sincerely,

D. Scott.

P. S. I have just received some potatoe apples from Nunkhlow. This crop was very luxuriant, when I left it, 23rd of last month; but pease, cauliflowers, &c. did not thrive.

No. 16.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowahatty, 6th August.

My dear Lamb,

I will, hereafter, give you a statement of the weather, and of the fall of rain on the hills, and below. As yet there does not seem to be much difference in the quantity. To obtain a chart of the wind, it would be necessary

that many observers should be employed at distant points. It would, perhaps, be possible to effect it, if the attention of the Scientific Committee of the Asiatic Society were attracted to the subject. From what I have observed here, and up the country, I should conjecture, that in the hot weather, there are two great currents of air in the Bengal valley, one flowing down the course of the Jumna and Ganges, chiefly to the south of the latter river, after it is joined by the Dewa ; and another rising about Suddeeya, which, after accompanying the Burhampooter, as far as its course is westerly, there leaves it, and blows up along the bottom of the northern mountains and the adjoining districts. We have here a counter-current above, from the westward, which we get into going to Nunkhlow, generally at an elevation of about 2,500 feet. My best regards to Mrs. Lamb.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 17.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb—not dated.

My dear Lamb,

Although I am very desirous of proceeding to Calcutta, the urgency of my business there is not, however, so great as to induce me to go, should you think it likely to prove injurious to my health ; and I should therefore be glad to know your opinion on this head ; and, also, whether you think it likely that any benefit would be derived from a voyage to sea, or residence in a colder climate. Although I do not think that too much atten-

tion to business has been the cause of this illness, as I never found myself fatigued, or otherwise affected by it at the time; I may as well mention, that, before the accession of the present fit, and, also, of the one I experienced in February, last year, I had been much occupied in court, for several months, usually going at seven in the morning, and, with exception to an hour or two at breakfast, sitting till sun-set. I do not think I mentioned to you that I had for two years past been subject to a pain in the stomach, which usually came on after breakfast. I have not had many attacks of it of late, owing I believe to a change of diet, but I still feel it occasionally. The medicine you gave me last night had a soothing effect, and lessened the palpitation, I think perceptibly; but it returned after I awoke in the morning. Do you think that distress of mind can have any considerable effect in a case of this kind*?

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 18.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowalparah, 30th March.

My dear Lamb,

I am very sorry to say that poor Leslie is laid up with a dreadful jungle fever, which has now been on him, with

* I had strongly urged Mr. Scott, for a year or more before his death, to visit the Cape, and eventually England; but the discomforts of a ship, and, I believe, an internal conviction that it would prove unavailing, always deterred him from adopting the suggestion.—Ed.

some slight intermissions, for ten days.—Mr. Hartt, most fortunately, arrived about five days ago—previously to which he had prescribed for himself, and taken very little calomel. He requested me to-day to write you about your concern at Gowahatty, but I could scarcely make out what he said. I enclose an *urzee* from your gomashta, to whom, or to me, pray write. Leslie wishes to go down the river to Dacca, and eventually to England; but Mr. Hartt says, that he cannot be moved at present, or in less than four or five days, if he recover, of which Mr. H. seems very doubtful. The fever was brought on by exposure in preparing the skins of two rhinoceroses killed near this.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 19.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowalparah, 30th March, 10 P. M.

I AM truly grieved to inform you, that poor Leslie has just expired. He appeared better in the evening than he had hitherto been, and was free from fever; and although exceedingly weak, Mr. H. entertained strong hopes of his recovery: but a sudden change for the worse took place an hour ago.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 20.

Sir Henry Halford's opinion of Mr. Scott's case.

After a careful perusal of Mr. Beadon's statement, and after paying the strictest attention to the account of the case drawn up by Mr. Scott himself, (who appears to have observed closely the symptoms of his disorder, and has described his sensations in a very striking and accurate manner,) I find it impossible not to arrive at the conclusion that, to a certain extent, there does exist in this case an organic affection within the chest. Of the exact nature of this affection it is difficult to speak in precise and definite terms; but it seems that its commencement may be traced to the rheumatic attack which occurred in 1824; which attack is said to have left him rather suddenly; and, it is under such circumstances, that external inflammation is found to be extended most frequently to internal organs. At the same time, it is not improbable that, in Mr. Scott's case, there may have always been a tendency to some irregularity in the action of the heart and arteries, of that kind which may be properly called nervous: and that such constitutional tendency to functional derangement may have acted as a predisposing cause, and may have led the way to an organic affection of the heart.

There is reason to believe that the alteration of structure, which has taken place, consists in an enlargement of the heart and large vessels, arising from it. The symptoms described, namely, the shortness of breath, the thrill felt chiefly under the left clavicle, the crepitous noise in

the windpipe, and the " bruit de soufflet," attending the action of the heart, all give probability to such a supposition.

The plan that I should advise, under such circumstances, is not to attempt to cure the disorder by starvation and copious depletion, which would too much reduce the patient's strength, and render his nervous system more irritable than before :—indeed this mode of treatment has been tried already, and has been found to fail. All that should be done, in the way of depletion, should be to relieve the labouring organ by the occasional detraction of three or four ounces, only, of blood. For which purpose six leeches should be applied occasionally to the region of the heart; after which its inordinate action may be moderated by the application, to the same region, of a quieting plaster, consisting of equal parts of extract of Belladonna and soap cerate, which should be worn there constantly. With the same view of controlling the heart's action, and of soothing the general system, a pill composed of three or four grains of the extract of conium and half a grain of the powder of digitalis may be taken three times a day, and washed down by a light tonic, such as a draught containing twelve drops of the dilute sulphuric acid, and twenty-five drops of the compound spirit of æther, in an ounce and half of infusion of cascarilla, or any other light tonic bitter.

The system here recommended should not be continued for more than ten days at a time ; after which it may be intermitted for a period, and resumed again if found to be satisfactory.

With respect to the bowels, all that is required, is to keep them comfortable by the occasional administration of some gentle aperient, the object being only to remove a source of irritation, and not to make a vain attempt to cure the disorder by such means.

Meanwhile, the patient's strength should be supported by a diet, not indeed too full, but sufficiently good and regular; and a moderate quantity of wine may be allowed.

It is highly important for him to enjoy as much quiet of mind, and repose of body, as it is possible for him, under the circumstances of his life, to command.

(Signed) HENRY HALFORD.

No. 21.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, 10th February.

MY palpitation has been much diminished for the last fortnight or three weeks, but the cat-mutter, although fainter, continues equally perceptible and distinct. I have, of course, often thought of a voyage to sea, but the expence, discomfort, and inconvenience make me loath to undertake it, where the chance of benefit is so small; for I cannot now doubt that some structural change has taken place in the heart, however it may have commenced. Of this the stethescope seems to afford ample proof. With best regards to Mrs. Lamb.

(Signed) D. SCOTT.

No. 22.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Churra Poonjee, 10th April.

My dear Lamb,

You will in all probability have heard, viâ Assam, of the melancholy fate of Lieutenants Bedingfeld and Burlton, who, together with the greater part of our servants and followers, were attacked, and murdered, by the Cassyas, on the 4th or 5th. I left them on the 1st, as it was supposed, in perfect security, and arrived here on the 2nd. We had some conversation, on the road, with the people of Lungburree, who had, the day before, detained our coolies, and taken some things from them. After our arrival here, we received no dâks, and, for some days, attributed it to the Lungburree people, until three days ago, when a report began to prevail that the whole party at Nunkhlow had been cut off. As yet we have not been able to get hold of any one who has actually been at the place, but all accounts concurring, as to the main facts, I fear no reasonable hope can be entertained of the safety of our poor friends. The conduct of the Rajah is quite inexplicable; and, I suppose, it must lead to the ultimate occupation of his country. The people here have behaved in the most friendly manner, and are, to all appearance, sincere; but I fear, that this melancholy termination of our Assam Sanatarium may induce Government to suspend proceedings here also; and it must, at all events, have the effect of deterring ladies from visiting the place. Mrs. Campbell has just left us. We were in some alarm last night,—an attack being expected by the people of the village; but we shall have a party of forty men by this evening, and may then bid them defiance.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 23.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott, dated Gowalparah, 28th April, 1831, to Lieut. H. Vetch, of the Assam Light Infantry.

I HAVE been sadly grieved and shocked by the distressing intelligence of poor Brodie's death. I have only heard from Mirza, that he was brought in, ill of a fever, on the 20th, and died on the 23rd. I did every thing in my power to prevent him from exposing himself in the jungles of the lower hills; and, when poor Leslie died, I wrote again, to entreat that he would stay above, and send down the peons and sebundies to scour the country below; but it was all in vain, and, from his long silence, after being down at the *Loabhee Dower*, I began to have forebodings that all was not right, although I had little apprehension that my worst fears would be so soon confirmed. It is impossible for any European to stand that climate at this season of the year. I well knew that although I might, and did, give him advice, he would not follow it, when there was any thing to do. It is a grievous thing to lose such a promising young officer, in such a way. With his handful of Cassyas he had reduced nearly the whole of the chiefs between *Murrow* and *Loabhee* in the course of a fortnight, and would, I have no doubt, soon have settled matters in that direction. – –

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and enthusiasm, in favor of the mountaineers, will not easily be found again, in an officer, to whom it could be made any object, to accept of such a paltry command. What a sad thing it is to think, that, that horrible jungle-fever should, in so short a space, have destroyed two such esteemed friends and valuable men in their respective departments, as we have lately lost! Climate, alone, seems insufficient, in general; but, if assisted by exposure, it soon shews its deadly nature.

(Signed) D. Scott.

No. 24.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Gowalparah, 23rd April.

I have heard nothing more of your report upon the Government jail. The prisoners have lost the best friend they were ever likely to have in poor Leslie, who took a deep interest in their welfare; but I fear their case is beyond the hope of remedy by medical means, the last half-yearly report exhibiting a total of 97 deaths, notwithstanding all the care and attention bestowed upon the sick. I am much obliged to you for the vaccine scales, but we have not yet been able to establish the disease.

(Signed) D. Scott.

No. 25.

From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Myrung, 6th May.

My dear Lamb,

We took possession of Nunkhlow on the 2nd, having met with nothing worthy of the name of resistance throughout the campaign. Teerut is running about from village to village, seldom sleeping twice in the same place, and in some danger of being killed or taken by his own people; who are heartily sick of fighting, and very anxious to get out of the scrape into which he has brought them. I have learnt little, in addition to the original report, of the particulars of the death of our poor friends. Bedingfield was decoyed out of the house and cut down, and Burlton had nearly made good his retreat to Assam, when an unfortunate fall of rain gave the archers an advantage, when the party dispersed, and he also was killed in the jungles. I never could have expected Teerut Sing to act so mad a part; and regret extremely that he did not try it before I and Beadon left the place, as I am perfectly satisfied, from what I have since seen of Cassya tactics, that, with our fowling pieces, alone, and without the aid of the 15 sepahees who accompanied as to Churra, we could have defeated Teerut's gang, and burnt every village in the country. More arrant cowards, after all their boasting, I never saw, nor a country in which the bow and arrow ~~was~~ were so entirely useless, when opposed to fire arms. The only places in which they can fight are holes under the rocks, from one of which Captain Lister unfortunately got rather badly wounded on the 1st; a barbed arrow having passed through his thigh, and narrowly missed, dividing the femoral artery. After this

campaign, we shall hear no more of the military propensities of these mountaineers. They had a lesson, long ago, on the plains, but still had the folly to suppose themselves invincible in the hills; where, in reality, as compared with the low lands, the chances are five to one in our favour; both from the open nature of the country and the superior salubrity of the climate. Out of this detachment, consisting of about 200 men, and which has been out, working hard, and much exposed to rain, since the 12th, there are now 18 sick, of whom 5 have sore feet, 2 fevers, and 3 bowel complaints. With best regards to the Ladies,

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 26.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Naugundee, 21st May.

My dear Lamb,

I grieve to say, that I have little or no hopes of the recovery of our poor friend Beadon, who received a most severe wound, yesterday, from an arrow, which has penetrated the nose, leaving the barb somewhere above the roof of the mouth. He immediately lost the use of the left arm and leg: and complains of such intense pain in the head, that I do not think that he can survive until the doctor arrives; and, even then, I know not what can be done to relieve him; the barb being, apparently, out of the reach of any instrument, and buried amongst bones. - We met with some opposition, in taking this place, which is situated in the midst of a chaos of

enormous *boulders*, jumbled together, in such a way, as to leave passages under them, from which the Cassyas discharge their arrows with perfect security. This is a very fine part of the country, quite level enough for the use of the plough, and already productive of rice, Indian corn, &c. to which I have little doubt, that wheat, barley, and other grain may soon be added. It is elevated nearly 1000 feet, and there seem to be none of those mists so prevalent at Churra and Nunkhlow, owing to the proximity of the plains. Could you oblige me by sending up, in a small boat, to Pundua, three or four maunds of fresh wheat, for seed, and the same quantity of barley, oats, boot-gram, making up the remainder of the cargo with potatoes, and any thing that Mr. Mascarenhas or Callogreed may have for me.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 27.

Extract from Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Myrung, 26th May.

My dear Lamb,

I am sorry to say that poor Beadon still continues in a dangerous state. Mr. Furnell yesterday laid open the wound; but, although he got firm hold of the barb with a forceps, it was found impossible to extract it, or to do more than move it back about half an inch; which may,

however, be of some use in removing pressure from the nerves*.

(Signed) D. Scott.

No. 28.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, (Extract,) Myrung, 10th June.

My dear Lamb,

I am sorry to hear that my order for a leather jacket should have travelled so far. I never expose myself to any unnecessary danger, and I remonstrated, repeatedly, with poor Beadon on the subject; but, as you may suppose, he was enraged at the cruelty of these Nunkhlow traitors, and bent upon revenge. Without, however, going into battle a person may be shot at, on the high-way, although nothing of the kind has hitherto occurred. The water-falls at this place are now, as you may suppose, in all their glory. I was surprised at the height; I had conjectured, that it might be 500 feet; but on a careful comparison with a horizontal line of apparently equal length with the perpendicular one, I find it to be more than 1,000. I do not think we can be mistaken to a greater extent than a tenth, or twentieth, of the whole, and the measurement would make it nearer 1,200

* It is impossible to contemplate the tragical fate of this unfortunate gentleman, as mentioned in the only two notices we meet with regarding it, in Mr. Scott's letters to Mr. Lamb, without the deepest feelings of commisseration.—Ed.

than 1,000. Did Mrs. Lamb take a sketch of these falls?

(Signed) D. Scott.

P. S. We have had almost incessant rain and mists here since the 28th. This is a great drawback on the climate of the place, but it does not seem to render it unhealthy, and of about 100 men, there are but four sick with fevers and bowel complaints. The quantity of rain that falls here in April and May, must be at least ten times as much as they have at Nunkhlow, and yet there can be no question of this being an infinitely more salubrious place.

No. 29.

(*Extract.*) *Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, 2nd September.*

Captain Lister has just gone back to Sylhet, after taking several stockades between this and Cheylee, which the people had been suffered to retain, in hopes of their coming to terms, when they saw the inutility of resistance, without its being necessary to proceed to extremities against them. In this, however, we were disappointed; and, after talking and writing to them, for three months, it became necessary to dislodge them, which was done with the loss of a few men wounded by ponjees, and one by an arrow. They are, without exception, the worst hands at fighting that we have had to deal with, making no serious defence, although entrenched in such a way as to be abmost unassailable by our present means, if they would only remain under cover. Their most formi-

dable weapon is the ponjee, by which a great number of men have been wounded, but none so badly as happened from the Burmese ponjees. My palpitation has perhaps decreased a little, but it is but very little. The cat-mutter becomes, I think, more and more perceptible, and can be distinctly felt outside of my cloths. I have given up the use of ———— in consequence of its producing a severe pain resembling lumbago, which continued for upwards of a fortnight. This occurred twice, and appeared distinctly to follow its use. This complaint is of very long standing, and I recollect suspecting that I had it more than 20 years ago. With best regards to the Ladies.

(Signed) D. Scott.

No. 30.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott to Lieut. Vetch, dated 2nd June, 1831.

I have been very unwell for the last month, and I am afraid my disorder is now going to progress in good earnest. I can neither breathe, sleep, nor eat ; being affected by frequent sickness at stomach. I am going to try the hills once more—but you must not be surprised if you hear that I have taken a place beside our poor friends on the Ostrich Hill*.

(Signed) D. Scott.

* See No. 31.

No. 31.

(*Extract.*) *From Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Kunumookh, 7th June,* 1831.

MANY thanks for the vaccine scales. Do not send any more, as we have established the disease at Gowalparah. I have been exceedingly unwell for the last month, and am now going to try the mountain air. All the symptoms of my disorder have been much increased, and I have suffered from frequent or rather constant sickness at stomach. I took an over dose of hydrocyanic acid, led away by the good effects it appeared to have in quieting the palpitation; and, supposing that it might have been weakened by the phial having been previously opened. It produced effects not unlike those following a debauch, and the other symptoms supervened; but, whether owing to the acid, or the progress of my complaint, I know not. The diuretics I have taken have had no effect; they may perhaps answer better when I get into a colder climate. Mr. Hartt wishes me to go to sea—but it would be too inconvenient. With best regards to Mrs. Lamb.

(Signed) D. SCOTT.

No. 32.

Mr. Rhodes to Mr. Scott.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just received your letter of the 18th of June, and lose no time in answering it. I have considered the symptoms therein stated with care and anxiety; and

have endeavoured, as much as possible, to recollect all the points your case shewed when I saw you at Churra. The first conclusion I came to, and which I still consider as the best, is, that you should, if *possible*, come over here immediately. I know that you are so well acquainted with the nature of your complaint, that I shall not add to your alarm by stating, that I consider it of so much danger, that you ought never to be without a Surgeon. Your letter states, that your ailment has greatly increased within the last six weeks; that you breathe with more difficulty, and are constantly sick at stomach. This leads me to suppose that your aorta has lately enlarged; (I considered at Churra, that in addition to ossification, there was aneurismal enlargement of the aorta:) should this be the case, the symptoms would be great oppression in your breathing, from this tumour pressing upon, and interrupting the action of, the lungs; and if the enlargement is on the back part of the vessel, it would, by pressing upon the trachea, œsophagus, and nerves, give rise to a sense of suffocation and irritation of the stomach. These circumstances, combined with an irregular circulation of the blood downwards, and its impaired decarbonization, in its passage through the lungs, must necessarily produce dropsical effusions and debility. The ——— is another symptom of great weakness, and of the inefficient state of the blood to produce the accustomed secretions. The increased pulsations over the whole frame are in consequence of the additional efforts of the heart to propel the blood through the system: having lost the assistance of the large aorta, and being also loaded with blood; and the whole circulation is called into increased action, to assist the labouring organ.

If you have been at all feverish, the deposite you mention is of no consequence, such an appearance being frequent both during and at the favourable termination of fever. The ——— I think an advantage, nature often relieving dropsical effusions in this way: but should it add greatly to your debility, it must be checked by opiates of chalk and ipecacuanha, occasionally taking a little rhubarb and magnesia. The most perfect rest is most essential, with a *complete intermission of all business*, and causes of anxiety. Bleeding might be attended with advantage, the point being to check and lower the circulation—but, since I cannot tell, from your letter, the extent to which the disease has gone, or your debility, I shall recommend the following treatment: I send some pills, and wish you to take one night and morning—they are principally composed of blue pill and squills, and will, I trust, produce perspiration, and an increased ———. I send half the digitalis that I have in store, but hope you may have some left that you took from here. I have sent to Sylhet for more, and will forward it if you do not come over. Campbell, who is here very ill, is taking this medicine, or would have sent more. The mode of prescribing the tincture is to take 10 drops every three hours, until there is some sensible effect on the pulse; and then, by increasing, or diminishing, the quantity, keep the circulation as slow as possible. Nausea, with an intermitting, or very low, pulse, with coldness of the extremities, will warn you when to leave off; and any strong stimulant will relieve these symptoms, if, by any chance, you may have taken too much digitalis. Besides lowering the pulse, the medicine will also assist greatly in reducing the swelling in your legs.

A hot foot-bath, with a handful of salt in it, will also do good. For your accommodation at Churra you need be under no apprehension, there being a large house of Mr. Turquand's here empty ; and, if you consider mine more comfortable and convenient, I hope you will come here at once, if you are capable of the exertion ; or, if you will send me an order, I will come over to Nunkhlow immediately. The quantity of tincture of digitalis, that I have ordered, is much less than you took whilst here. I wish you to take as much as the system will bear. I do not recommend opium at night, if it can be done without ; but, if from pain, or restlessness, you are obliged to take it, I think that large doses would answer better than small, not being so likely to excite without producing sleep.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Your's sincerely,
WM. RHODES.

Churra, 20th June, 7 A. M.

No. 33.

(*Extract.*) *Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Churra Poonjee, 16th July.*

I HAVE been here since the 7th or 8th, but make little or no progress either one way or the other. My legs &c. are very much swelled, and I have symptoms of jaundice. The difficulty of breathing is much less, and I can now sleep at night ; but I am still subject to sickness at stomach, and have little or no appetite. Nicolson

wants me to go to sea immediately; it would be very inconvenient just now: and I am afraid, he has forgotten the fragile state of my heart, and looks only to the more recent symptoms. Mr. Rhodes is still confined to his bed. He has suffered dreadfully from pain, and inability, to this day, and for the last three weeks, even to turn himself in bed.

(Signed) D. Scott.

No. 34.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Churra, 11th August.

My dear Lamb,

Have you, or could you procure for me, a small quantity of the acetate of morphium? I am obliged to take laudanum every night, and the above is recommended instead. There is little alteration in my case, since I came here. My legs are as much swelled as ever, the difficulty of breathing much the same, and I am, if any thing, weaker. I shall write to ——— about the house, and he has already an excellent correspondent in Major Watson, who must, after all, do the needful.

Your's sincerely,

D. Scott.

No. 35.

Letter from Lieut. H. Vetch, of the Assam Light Infantry, to Col. Arch. Watson.

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 3rd instant, and for returning the letters of our lamented friend.

Major White being, at present, on a tour to Suddeah, and not likely to return for some time, I shall take the liberty of answering your questions to him, being acquainted with the particulars: (i. e.) our poor friend saying in his letter that I need "not be surprised to hear of his taking up a place on the Ostrich Hill," alludes to a beautiful green hill so named from the singular resemblance to that bird of a solitary tree near its top. This hill, from the noble prospect it commands, was a favourite spot with all who visited the place, in its more peaceful and happier days; but particularly with Lieut. Bedingfield, who, on his last visit, seemed to have a presentiment that he would die there, and begged Dr. Beadon that he should be buried on the summit of the "Ostrich Hill." From the, by no means dangerous, nature of Lieut. B.'s illness, and the great benefit his health was deriving from the climate, Dr. B. as little anticipated Bedingfield's death from disease, as he could the cruel and treacherous act that so soon fulfilled his melancholy forebodings.

On the retaking of the place, his wish was complied with, and the mangled remains of himself and Lieut. Burlton were collected and buried, in one grave, in the caves on its top. These two officers were like brothers to each other, both noble fellows, beloved by all who knew them, and as much attached to Mr. Scott as he was to them.

Believe me,
Dear Sir,
Your's very sincerely,
HAMILTON VETCH.

Jorehaut, 30th March, 1831.

No. 36.

On the 25th of the same month (August) the following Notice of Mr. Scott's illness appeared in the Calcutta "East Indian" Newspaper:

By private letters from Churra Poonjee, we are informed of the serious illness of David Scott, Esq. Political Agent and Commissioner at Assam. He is an indefatigable and most useful servant of Government; and it will be a great misfortune to the country, should he not live to witness the accomplishment of the many plans of public utility which he has, under the sanction of Government, undertaken. It was owing to his recommendation to Government that the invalid establishment now erecting at the station was commenced; and it will require, we learn, a person of his peculiar qualifications to effect its completion. Ever since his appointment to the political agency of the north-east frontier, Mr. Scott has been most assiduous in introducing improvements in the agriculture and manufactures of those parts; and there prevails, adds our correspondent, but one opinion, among the Natives, respecting his character and abilities.—*East Indian.*

Subsequently to the foregoing, the following notices appeared in the different Newspapers at the Presidency.

No. 37.

From the Calcutta John Bull, 27th August.

In our paper of yesterday we gave insertion to a paragraph from a contemporary journal, in which the illness of David Scott, Esq. the Political Agent and Commis-

sioner at Assam, is represented to be of a seriously alarming character. A near relation of that gentleman, residing in Calcutta, has favored us with the perusal of a letter from him of a very recent date (the 14th August), which we are happy to say is written in a tone of cheerfulness in every way calculated to allay the apprehensions which, we fear, may, by the paragraph in question, have been excited in the minds of Mr. Scott's numerous friends in Bengal, as to the dangerous state of the malady under which he has, for some years, been occasionally suffering. We sincerely trust, and from his own description of his disorder, we may indeed venture to hope, that he may yet live "novem addere lustris altera lustra novem."—*Calcutta John Bull.*

The letter from Mr. Scott, mentioned in the above, was written in so cheerful a strain, with reference to his illness, as not to afford the slightest cause for immediate alarm. In this persuasion it was forwarded immediately to Mr. Scott's brother in England.

But, alas! these hopes soon proved to have been unfounded, and the following appeared in the India Gazette of the 30th.

No. 38.

David Scott, Esq.

We regret to state, that a communication has been received in Calcutta, announcing the death of David

Scott, Esq. the Political Agent and Commissioner at Assam. The event took place at Churra Poonjee on the 20th instant. Mr. Scott was a most zealous, faithful, and intelligent public servant, and his death will be felt as a very great loss to the Government and to the community.—India Gazette.

No. 39.

From the Bengal Hurkara and Chronicle, 15th September.

The late Mr. Scott.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

Mr. Scott was eminently the friend of the Natives. Myself an enthusiast in their cause, I cannot allow the occasion of his death to pass without a humble tribute of sorrowing applause to the character of one, who, to the sharpest and brightest intellect, added a winning simplicity of character, combined with a benignity so deep and searching, as to be appreciable only by those, who, within the sphere, or neighbourhood, of his vocations, can bear testimony to the great extent of his charity and the singleness of his purpose in every thing he undertook. The alloy of worldly pride and ambition, allied to personal motives, were unknown in the character of the deceased. It may be truly said, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." In this gifted and virtuous man, distinguished as he was by the most pure and exalted philanthropy, the natives at large, have lost one of their most powerful and able advocates; the poor, a friend whose charities

were boundless; charities exercised in remote and distant wilds, where no motive of worldly pride could have entered into their constant and never-ceasing flow. The last communication the writer of these lines had with him contained an opinion of his conviction, that, on the liberal and extensive employment of the Natives depended the result, whether the Judicial system could or could not be rendered efficient.

The Government, and the distinguished individuals that are connected with it, can bear testimony to his talents and to his zeal—but who shall speak for the countless inhabitants of the mountain, village, and desolate wild, in whose memories this good man's reputation is enshrined?—Mr. Scott was indeed a second Cleveland*, and will

* The following interesting account of this amiable philanthropist occurs in Bishop Heber's Journal.

"The people of these mountains and of all the hilly country between this place (Boglipoor*) and Burdwan, are a race distinct from those of the plains, in features, language, civilization, and religion. They have no castes, care nothing for the Hindoo deities, and are even said to have no idols. They are still more naked than the Hindoo peasants, and live chiefly by the chase, for which they are provided with bows and arrows, few of them having fire arms. Their villages are very small and wretched, but they pay no taxes, and live under their own chiefs, under British protection. A deadly feud existed till within the last forty years between them and the cultivators of the neighbouring lowlands, they being untamed thieves and murderers, continually making forages, and the Mohammedan zemindars killing them like mad dogs, or tigers, whenever they got them within gun-shot. An excellent young man, of the name of Cleveland,

* Or Baugulpoor.—Ed.

be long remembered in the parts where he has, for so many years, brought the Government into honour, and won for the European name a high respect. " A good name

Judge and Magistrate of Boglipoor, undertook to remedy this state of things. He rigorously forbade, and promptly punished, all violence from the zemindars, (who were often the aggressors) against the puharees, (mountaineers ;) he got some of these last to enter his service, and took pains to attach them to him, and to learn their language. He made shooting parties into the mountains, treating kindly all whom he could get to approach him, and established regular bazars at the villages nearest to them, where he encouraged them to bring down for sale—game, millet, wax, hides, and honey, all which their hills produce in great abundance. He gave them wheat and barley for seed, and encouraged their cultivation, by an assurance that they should not be taxed, and that no body but their own chiefs should be their zemindars. And, to please them still further, and, at the same time, to keep them in effectual order, and to bring them more into contact with their civilized neighbours, he raised a corps of sepoys from among them, which he stationed at Sicligully, and which enabled him not only to protect the peaceable part of them, but to quell any disturbances which might arise with a body of troops accustomed to mountain warfare. This good and wise man died in 1784, in the twenty-ninth year of his age. A monument was raised to his memory near Boglipoor, at the joint expense of the highland chiefs and lowland zemindars, which still remains in good repair, having been endowed by them with some lands for its maintenance. A garrison of these mountaineers, which was then kept up at Sicligully, has been since discontinued ; the corps being considerably reduced in numbers, and partly quartered at Boglipoor, partly, during the late call for men, at Berhampoor. Archdeacon Corrie's principal business at Boglipoor was to learn whether any encouragement existed for forming a mission among those people. Their being free from the yoke of caste, seems to make them less unlikely to receive the Gospel, than the bigotted inhabitants of the plains."—*Bp. Heber's Journal,* vol. i. chap. 9.—Ed.

is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth."

N. S.

Rungpore, 6th Sept. 1831.

No. 40.

From the Calcutta John Bull, September 27th, 1831.

THE LATE DAVID SCOTT, ESQUIRE.

SOMETIME ago a short notice of the late Mr. Scott, Commissioner at Assam, by a Civil Servant stationed at Rungpore, appeared in the Bengal Hurkaru. We have been since furnished with some particulars respecting that lamented individual, by one who was personally acquainted with him, and also with a letter he addressed to the talented writer of the Sketches of India, which appeared in the Kaleidoscope. It was in 1829, that our informant first saw Mr. Scott. He had gone up to the Cassya hills, to erect some huts for the accommodation of the circuit judge of Dacca, when Mr. Scott went up there, and received him very courteously. Mr. Scott treated the Natives with great affability, and offered chairs to the most respectable of those who visited him—an uncommon practice with gentlemen high in the Service, but one which is calculated to win the affections of the people.

Mr. Scott was remarkably diligent, beginning to work every morning under his blanket, as he never used fires. The mountaineers believed him to be invulnerable; for, after failing in several attempts to take his life, in those

disturbances which terminated by taking possession of the Cassya country, they gave up the design in despair. In particular Teerut Sing, one of their chiefs, perceiving that the bullets pierced even his iron-covered shield, retired to the most inaccessible parts of his territories. The belief which prevailed among the ignorant mountaineers that Mr. Scott was a debtah*, or something like, arose from a temporary suspension of animation, during which he was supposed to be dead; but the preparations for burial were not immediately commenced on account of the coldness of the climate; and it was only when the last offices were about to be performed, that he gave signs of life.

Among Mr. Scott's plans for usefulness, two may be mentioned.—The establishment of a school for the Garrows, and the Sanatarium at Churra Poonjee. He proposed to reclaim the inhabitants of the Garrow hills from their savage state, by opening a school for the children, in which a written language (to which they are strangers) was to be taught. The school was opened under the sanction of Government; but on the death of the teacher, when Mr. Scott applied for permission to appoint another, the Government stated, that a clergyman should be appointed, according to the recommendation of Bishop Heber, to place it under ecclesiastical superintendence; in consequence of which no one has been appointed. Mr. Scott will be best remembered by the Sanatarium now erecting. The sick station, built at his recommendation at Nunkhlow, was burnt down by the Cassyas just before the commencement of the former.

* A god, or incarnation of the Deity.—Ed.

The pains and trouble it cost him are described as incredible.

Whenever Mr. Scott met with any new tribes of mountaineers, whose language was different from the known one, he directed inquiries to be made, with a view to collect a vocabulary of certain words in that language. This document was kept in his office for public use. A reference was made to some of the political sentiments of Mr. Scott, in the communication to which we adverted before. It is stated there, that he had expressed his opinion, "that on the liberal and extensive employment of "the Natives depended the result, whether the judicial "system could or could not be rendered efficient;" but the views of Mr. Scott will be understood from the following letter, of which we have spoken; hastily written, as all his correspondence generally was.

Extract.

"DEAR SIR,

"I RETURN the books, and should be obliged to you to request the Editor to send me a copy in future, if you are in correspondence with him. I suppose that you must be well acquainted with Sylhet F——. I am disposed to agree with him in much that is said, as to the prevailing evils, although I cannot see so clearly the cure; neither can I reconcile his proposal, in one paper, to give office to the native nobility. Perhaps by the nobility he means the zemindars, with the establishment of the mofussil magistrates, or darogahs with a better salary. But they would still scarcely be chosen from the nobility, who, in most cases, want both the ability and

the inclination to perform much laborious duty, though they would have no objection to hold the office, and allow the business to devolve upon a deputy, who would only prove a worse edition of our present daroghas. The only nobility acknowledged under the Mahomedan dynasty was that of office; and, I believe, no part of our system has given more general discontent than the undue elevation which the class of zemindars has attained from their great wealth; the officers of Government, of inferior rank, such as sereshtadars, tesheeldars, dewans, &c. having formerly been considered as their superiors."

In person, Mr. Scott was rather tall, inclined to corpulency, and of commanding appearance. Owing to a diseased heart, he was in constant fear of being carried off suddenly.—*East Indian.*

No. 41.

Extract of a letter addressed to the Editor of the India Gazette, 4th April, 1832.

"I will assert, that whatever good may have arisen from the perpetual settlement in other parts of India, the effect of that measure in Chotah Nagpore has been to keep the great mass of the inhabitants in an extreme state of barbarity. For the purpose of illustrating my meaning, I will notice a portion of country equally out of the way as Nagpore, which has experienced great advantages from the same settlement. I will then notice the cause of the success in one place, and, by proving the absence of that cause in the other, clearly demonstrate

the position I have assumed, viz. that the operation of the perpetual settlement, by depriving the cultivators of any interest in the welfare of the country, is the "elementary cause," from which those disturbances have arisen. The country to which I have alluded is Assam, where the end proposed by the settlement has, in a great measure, been obtained, viz. "jungles formerly inhabited "by wild beasts have been cleared, and the land is now "cultivated. Wealth and happiness have blessed the "labours of the intelligent and industrious part of the "community." (Vide Lord Cornwallis's letter to the Court of Directors, dated 2nd August, 1789); and as a particular instance, I would notice Gowalparah, which could, without oppression, pay a thousand rupees of revenue for every hundred it now pays. Although I really believe the prosperous state of Assam may be attributed to the benevolent interference of the late enlightened Commissioner, Mr. Scott, who watched over the people entrusted to his care with parental kindness; who made it a conscientious point of duty to inquire into the actual condition of the "ryots," and his constant endeavour to improve that condition, yet we are not now inquiring into the motives which influenced the zemindars, but state, as the true reason of the great improvement at Gowalparah, in the extent of its cultivation and in the increase of the prosperity and happiness of its population, that the ryots are kindly treated, and consequently cheerfully exert themselves to increase the wealth and respectability of their masters."

No. 42.

Extract from a General Letter to the Honorable the Court of Directors, No. 15, dated 23rd December, 1831.

PAR. 331. "Recorded as per margin will be found a letter from Mr. Rhodes, the Civil Surgeon at Churra Poonjee, announcing the death of Mr. Scott upon the 20th August last. In communicating this melancholy intelligence to the Governor General, we expressed our assurance, that his lordship would participate with us in sentiments of deep regret and sorrow at the loss of this valuable public officer, who had been distinguished, throughout his career, by eminent ability, zeal, and judgment, in the discharge of his duty, and by an earnest desire to promote the prosperity of the districts, and the welfare of the people placed under his superintendance."

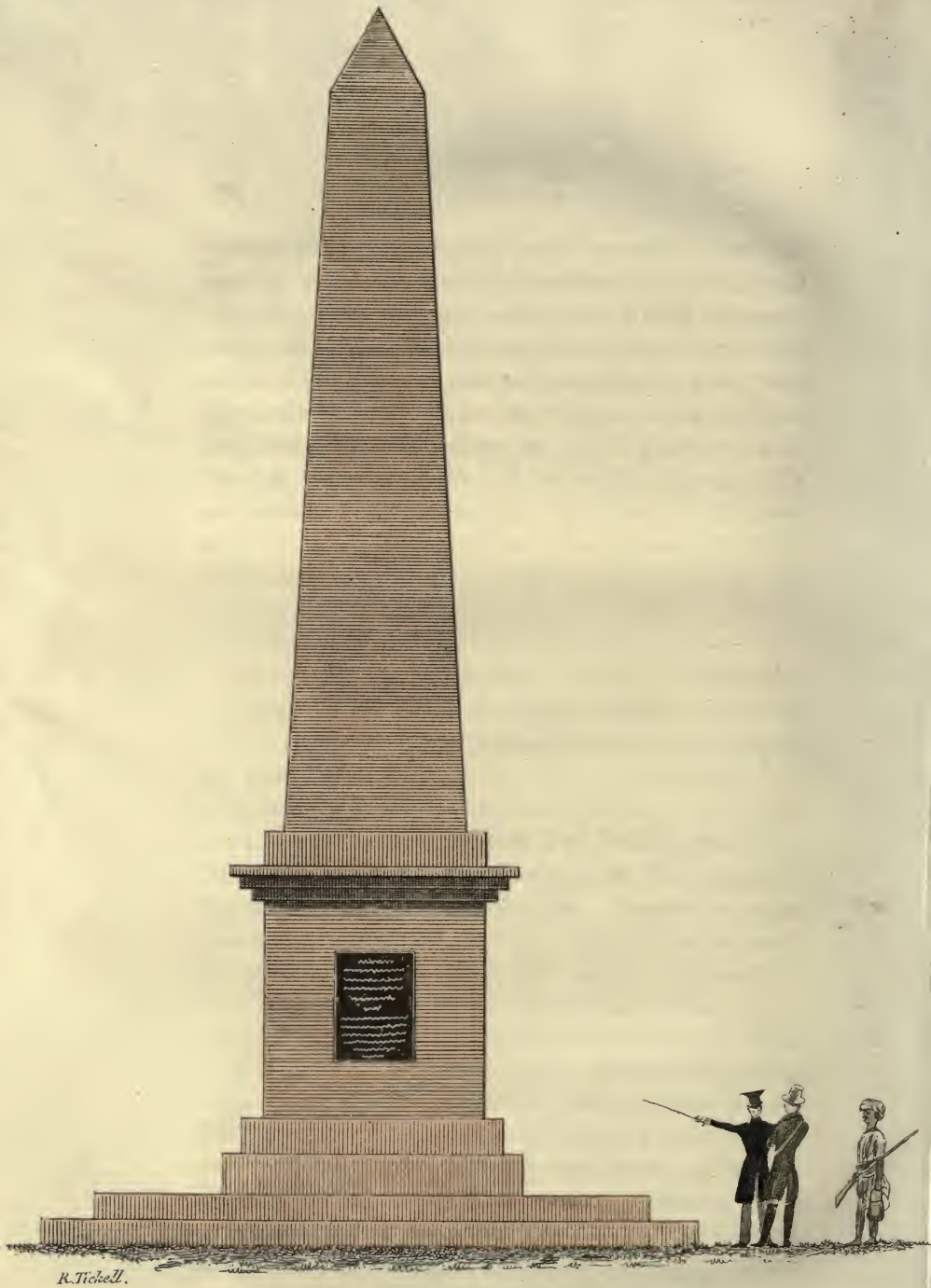
No. 43.

Extract from a letter from H. T. Prinsep, Esq. Secretary to the Governor General, to Mr. Swinton, dated Simla, 20th September, 1831.

PAR. 1. "I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st instant, with its enclosure, and in reply to state that the Governor General unites with the Vice-President in council in lamenting the unfortunate decease of Mr. David Scott, Commissioner and Governor General's Agent on the North-East Frontier.

Par. 2. " His Lordship is fully sensible of the degree in which Government is indebted to the personal character and to the zeal, industry, and ability uniformly displayed by Mr. Scott, in the management of the large territory and extensive relations committed to him. The Governor General will be happy to concur in any resolution that may be passed by the Vice-President in Council, for the erection, at the public expence, of a monument to the deceased, at the place of his interment, as a well-merited testimony of the sense entertained by Government of the character and public services of this distinguished officer."

The complaint which thus brought Mr. Scott to a premature grave was that singular disorder termed an " ossification of the heart," originating probably in the manner described by Major White. It had gradually arrived at such a height, that it was a matter of surprise to the medical gentlemen who attended him, that he could have lived so long. But there is no doubt, that the progress of his malady was greatly accelerated by incessant application to the various and important duties of his extensive government. How powerfully his anxiety for the efficient discharge of these, and for the well-being of the numerous population entrusted to his care, excited his mind even to the last, may be best understood from the closing scene of his valuable life ; when, finding himself weaker and more oppressed than usual, by his fatal disorder, yet not aware of any immediate danger, Mr. Scott sent for the gentlemen already mentioned as having been present at his death, (Lt.-Col. Watson, Mr. Rhodes, and Lieut. Day) and thus addressed them: " I wish you, gentlemen, to bear



R. Tickell.

Proposed Monument to the Memory of the late **DAVID SCOTT**, *Esq. Agent to the Gov^r Gen^l Assam.*

J.B. Tassin lith.

witness to Government, that I am no longer able to conduct the affairs of the country :"—here his voice failed. He attempted, soon after, to speak again, and seemed in great distress at finding himself unable. He continued thus, from time to time, to murmur broken and ineffectual endeavours to address Col. Watson, who sat on the side of his couch, but could not be understood. This affecting sight so much distressed Col. W. that it was a relief to him, at length, to observe that Mr. Scott seemed gradually to lose his consciousness, appearing to dose as in troubled sleep, in which state he continued till he ceased to breathe.—Ed.

The following is the Inscription on the black marble Tablet of the Monument erected at Churra Poonjee.

In Memory

OF

DAVID SCOTT,

Agent to the Governor General on the North-East Frontier of Bengal, and Commissioner of Revenue and Circuit in the districts of Assam, North-Eastern part of Rungpore, Sheerpore, and Sylhet; died 20th August, 1831, aged 45 years.

This Monument

Is erected by order of the Supreme Government, as a public and lasting record of its consideration for the personal character of the deceased, and its estimation of the eminent services rendered by him in the administration of the extensive territory committed to his charge.

By his demise, the Government has been deprived of a most zealous, able, and intelligent servant, whose loss it deeply laments; while his name will be held in grateful remembrance and veneration by the native population, to whom he was justly endeared by his impartial dispensation of justice, his kind and conciliatory manners, and his constant and unwearied endeavours to promote their happiness and welfare.

No. 44.

Letter from the late David Scott, Esq. to Mr. C. A. Fenwick, Register to the Local Record Committee, Sylhet, Dacca, 7th March, 1827.

Sir,

In reply to the queries contained in your letter of the 3rd, I beg to acquaint you, that the Garrows are partly subject to the British Government, and partly independent; the more remote tribes, or rather villages, being in the latter predicament. They have no acknowledged chief of their own race, each village with its adjacent territory, of ten, or twenty, square miles, being quite independent, unless where they have become subject to the British Government; and, in that case, they communicate directly with the officers of Government, and are not subject to any zumeendar, or other intermediate permanent authority. The person lately appointed, Mr. Henley, has not yet acquired the Garrow language, and has not consequently commenced his labours. If a clergyman were appointed, Mr. H. would be placed under his

control. The Garrows have no diversity of castes, nor have they any regular priesthood; although there is, in most villages, a lame or blind person, incapacitated for other work, who invokes the deities, and offers sacrifices for the recovery of sick persons. The station where I would propose that the clergyman should be placed is about 40 miles from the station of Rungpore, and nearly the same distance from the military cantonment of Jamalpore. There are weekly markets in the neighbourhood, to which the Garrows resort, and where the necessaries of life are procurable. Under what authority you would be placed, I am unable, at present, to state precisely; but I suppose that of the Church Missionary Society, subject to such control as the support given to the establishment by Government, and public considerations, would render advisable. I am uncertain as to the extent of salary that Government would allow. The late Bishop proposed 150 Rs. per mensem, and I think it is likely that they would not wish much to exceed that sum. A reasonable period would no doubt be allowed for you to join. Medicines will certainly be allowed, and Mr. Henley, who was a Deputy Apothecary, has been appointed with reference to his medical knowledge, and with the intention that he should instruct, in that art, some of the youths, and such of the Garrow priests, as might be induced to give up their present practice of curing by conjuration, and to enter into the views of Government for the general conversion of their brethren. The means of erecting a bungalow would, no doubt, be granted, together with a school room, and accommodation for forty Garrow boys, whom it is intended to place under the exclusive direction of the clergyman, to be fed

and clothed by Government, and brought up in the Christian faith. The diseases most common are fevers, both jungle and intermittent. I know not of any healthy spot in the hills, or east of the Burhampooter; but, to the westward of that river, there are plenty of salubrious sites, where the Missionary might remain during the rainy season. The danger from sickness I must not disguise; it is very great. I have myself been twice on the point of death, from fevers caught in these hills, although I never had even an ague fit, during a residence of twenty-five years in any other part of the country. It was not to testimonials of moral character that I referred, but of those other qualities more particularly required in a Missionary, who should devote himself to an undertaking of this kind. Zeal, tempered with prudence, a capacity for the acquisition of languages, a capability of enduring the hardships and privations that must be looked for in such a country, and some knowledge of agriculture, mechanics, and the more common arts of life, would be desirable qualifications for the Missionary who goes to preach the Gospel to a rude and savage people, amongst whom the introduction of the useful arts ought to precede that of a knowledge of letters. In respect to the means to be pursued for the conversion of these people, I do not anticipate any interference with your plans; founded as they would, no doubt, be, upon a mature consideration of local circumstances, and the rude state of the mountaineers; and disposed, as I conclude you would be, not blindly to *reject* such human means as may be available for the furtherance of the object in view, and amongst which, I contemplate, as the most feasible, that of gaining over the priests, by making them a pecu-

niary provision, equal to what they at present possess, upon condition of their offering no opposition to the introduction of the new faith. Some customs, inconsistent with the doctrines of Christianity, it might be necessary to tolerate, for a time; the object in view being rather to improve the rising generation than completely to purify the present. Thus the marriage of two wives might be hereafter prevented; but the repudiation of one, where there are already two, could not, perhaps, with a fair prospect of success, be insisted upon. Although the difference in the salary, which it was proposed to Government to allow, is so great as to render it improbable that you should continue to think of the situation; I have, nevertheless, thought it best to give you the information you required, on the supposition, that this difficulty may be got over, either by the liberality of Government, or by some additional allowance from your own Society. To the extent of 250 Rupees, I think, that we may count upon the aid of Government.

Your most obedient servant,

D. Scott.

No. 45.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Fenwick.

The general knowledge of husbandry and the arts which you possess, will be in the highest degree useful, and it is, I have little doubt, quite sufficient for the object in view, which is not to make artizans of the mountaineers, nor even to encourage the fabrication of any article which they can procure, on reasonable terms,

from the plains, by the barter of their staple commodity cotton; but merely to point out to them such obvious improvements and simple mechanical inventions as would immediately suggest themselves to a person at all conversant with the agriculture and arts of Europe, America, or the more civilized parts of Asia.

No. 46.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Fenwick, Gowahatty, 18th August, 1827.

I ENTIRELY approve of your suggestion relative to the school for girls, and it is one of the chief advantages I anticipate, from placing fifty families entirely under the control of the Missionary, that he will be able to get a sufficient number of children, of both sexes, without difficulty, or making it a favor, as might be the case, were he dependent on the caprice of the chiefs. Any sudden alteration in the usual occupation of the females had better be avoided, of course. They are at present chiefly employed in field labour; sowing, weeding, and tending the crops, forming their department, while the men cut down the jungle, make fences, and carry the produce to market. If the system of irrigation proposed* should answer, a great change might be effected, as the land would be rendered permanently fertile, and the labour now undergone by the men would, ultimately, be much reduced. They at present cultivate according to the practice known in Sylhet by the term *joom*. When the season is favor-

* By Mr. Fenwick.

able good crops are procured by this means; but, owing to the steepness of the ascents, the finer particles of the soil are washed away by the rain, and it becomes quite barren by the expiration of the second year, when a long fallow is required to render it again productive. By cutting the sides of the hill into *steps** the soil would be rendered flat, and this loss consequently avoided, while, by having a command of water, (it is not proposed to raise water artificially, but merely to dam up the rivulets and turn the stream where it may be required,) good crops would be ensured independently of the vicissitudes of season. There could not, of course, be the slightest objection to the substitution of hogs or other stock for that proposed. Turkies might perhaps be advantageously introduced, and could prove a source of considerable profit should the climate agree with them; which, however, with reference to its dampness, is not very likely. It would certainly be desirable to bring up some fruit trees, but I would not go to any considerable expence on this account, as I could supply you with mangoes, peaches, the China fruits, pears, &c. from this quarter, without charge.

D. S.

* The mode here suggested by Mr. Scott is adopted in most of the wine countries of Europe, and in the island of Madeira. Where the hills present a favourable soil, aspect, and exposure, for the cultivation of the vine, but with acclivities too steep, *terraces* are formed to prevent the loose earth from being washed away; and, to counteract the effects of the summer heats, water courses are constructed along the sides of the mountains, which enable the cultivators to irrigate their vineyards as occasion may require.—Ed.

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